هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES 50P

No. 65,874

SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

TODAY

COMEBACK FOR THE FOURTH TENOR

Roberto Alagna's return

PLUS: 32 pages of HOUSE STYLE

MOTHER-IN-LAW: HARRIDAN— OR ALLY?

WEEKEND PAGE 11

WHO OWNS YOUR PENSION SURPLUS?

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES Live

Get the best seats for Jools Holland and Cirque Du Soleil

THE DIRECTORY

MONDAY

THE TIMES FOR ONLY 10P EVERY MONDAY

Central Office divided on tactics

Major takes command for the last week

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR has taken personal control of the Conservative election campaign amid indications of a serious split over tactics at Central Office.

Tory officials have confirmed that the Prime Minister is virtually running the operation from Downing Street and his battle bus. The tension at the top of the leadership over strategy has exposed a serious rift among senior Conservative advisers over whether Europe or the economy should have been made the party's dominant campaign theme.

Mr Major, with Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Lord Saatchi, its advertising chief, overruled other key strategists by putting the main emphasis on Europe. Their victory was reflected in last night's party election broadcast when Europe was again a main issue. The Prime Minister, to the consternation of some of his advisers, has insisted that the European Union should be a central plank of the campaign next week.

The disagreements reflect a deepening sense of frustration at Central Office over the failure to dent Labour's lead in the opinion polls. They have prompted senior party officials openly to contemplate defeat and speculate on the size of the Labour majority.

Supporters of Mr Major are complaining bitterly that people are already positioning themselves to ensure they are not blamed in the inquest that would follow a heavy defeat.

And yesterday Norma Major resigned from the election fray after her husband encountered an exuberant crowd of Bangladeshis in the East End of London. She was briefly cornered against railings before bodyguards came to her rescue. An hour later, as Mr Major again mingled with boisterous supporters in nearby Ilford, his wife avoided the scrum and walked alone through the town's pedestrian precinct.

In the tension over the campaign strategy, it is the decision to rip up the strategy and go on the offensive over Europe that is the clearest illustration of the way Mr Major, backed by Lord Saatchi and Viscount Cranborne, his Downing Street chief of staff, has taken the campaign by the scruff of the neck. It also confirmed suspicions that the chain of command could become blurred between Mr Major and Lord Cranborne and Central Office and Lord Saatchi.

Danny Finkelstein, head of the Conservative research department, and David Willetts, chairman, argued strongly last week that the economy should be the battleground. "Deep down people still do not trust Labour on tax," one senior Tory official said. "We should have been hitting them hard on the subject. Europe can prove too divisive."

Mr Major and Dr Mawhinney have not always agreed. It was Mr Major who rejected a re-run of the Tories' "demon eyes" campaign agaisnt Tony Blair. Plans were drawn up and they were enthusiastically backed by Lord Saatchi, Sir Tim Bell and Lord Chadlington, the former Peter Gummer. "Some of our best work has never seen the light of the campaign. We boasted last year that demon eyes was the most effective ad we had done for years, so why wasn't it repeated?" a senior party official asked.

The "New Labour New Danger" slogan, which was unveiled with a flourish last year, has been unofficially buried. Ministers were primed to ram home the message at press conferences and in media interviews. But the expression is rarely used amid disagreemnts over whether the message was confused. "We were trying to say new Labour was old, the same old danger, but that was not what the slogan said," the Tory source added.

Even the latest poster, "Britain is Booming", has its critics at Downing Street and among some of Mr Major's senior ministers. "When people see 'boom', they automatically think of bust," a senior Tory said. On Wednesday night, the Prime Minister asserted his authority once more when he overruled Lord Saatchi, who wanted the go-ahead for a big newspaper advertising campaign in the last few days of the campaign. Dr Mawhinney agreed with Lord Saatchi.

Dr Mawhinney has seemed increasingly ill at ease with a role he never sought and which his critics say he is not suited to. He has only a walk-on role at the daily press conferences.

He knows his weaknesses and he has refrained from too many high-profile media appearances. "But it hurts," one of his friends said. "He knows full well he will be blamed if we lose."

INSIDE

Election news..........11-16
Peter Barnard..........11
Richard Morrison..........21
Simon Jenkins..........22
Leading article..........23
Letters..........23
Graham Searjeant..........31
Robert Crampton.... **Magazine**

LEIGH GREEN

Sunbathers and icecreams could not be spotted on Bournemouth beach for just about the first time for a month yesterday

Parched landscape receives rain at last

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

RAIN swept across most of Britain yesterday giving welcome relief to gardeners and farmers, especially in the South East which had its first significant fall for five weeks with four millimetres falling by late afternoon and more coming. The four millimetres compare to one to two millimetres over the past month — and a seasonal average of 50 mm.

There was also heavy rain across Wales, the north Midlands and East Anglia, where farmers have been complaining about "desert" conditions.

But weeks of wet weather will be needed to end the drought. Scientists say that the ground across large areas of southern and eastern England is now drier than during the drought of 1976 and reservoir levels have, for the first time this year, begun to fall.

Yesterday's downpours, which are forecast to last into Monday, disrupted many County Cricket championship matches. There was no play at Old Trafford in the match between Lancashire and Durham, nor at Trent Bridge between Nottinghamshire and Worcestshire.

Drivers were warned to take extra care as the rain mixed with rubber, oil and dust to create slippery conditions.

Although the unsettled weather is forecast to persist across most of Britain, experts said the rain would do little to boost reservoirs, rivers and underground suppplies.A spokesman for the Environment Agency said yesterday that they had detected the first fall in reservoir levels after the winter recharge period.

Reservoirs across England and Wales were 90 per cent full on April 17. They have dipped slightly to 88 per cent capacity as demand rises. In the South West and Yorkshire levels are at 70 per cent of capacity.

Scientists at the Institute of Hydrology in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, said the soil mositure levels in southern England are now lower than in 1976 "by a long way".

The researchers are still compiling the exact statistics but the findings are echoed in figures, released yesterday by the Envirionment Agency, on soil moisture deficits.

These assess how dry the ground is and how much rain is needed to soak the earth sufficiently to allow rainfall to penetrate down to underground boreholes and aquifers.

Last year the deficit in the Anglian region on April 24 was 50mm but this has increased this year to 71mm of rain now. In the Thames region 32 mm of rain were needed at the same time in 1996 to soak the ground sufficiently to boost underground supplies. The amount needed has risen to 85mm.

Subsidence fears, page 2
Forecast, page 26

The battle switches to cost of pensions

BY JILL SHERMAN AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

JOHN MAJOR declared yesterday that he would quit politics rather than scrap the state pension as his increasingly bitter personal war with Tony Blair dominated electioneering.

But as Labour was accused of a coldly calculated campaign to frighten the voters, the Conservatives were forced to admit to so far undisclosed start-up costs of billions of pounds for the new privatised system announced seven weeks ago.

Party sources admitted that there would be up to nine years from the start of the scheme before big savings were made from equalising the age of the basic state pension to 65.Accumulative costs would mount up to £5 billion-£7 billion in the early stages and ministers last night admitted that the initial cost would have to be covered by "economic growth and fiscal leeway".

The findings by *The Times* were seized on by Labour last night as fresh ammunition for its charge that the Conservatives could not show how the new scheme could work.Mr Major denied that he would ever be party to damaging the state pension. When it was put to him that right-wingers such as John Redwood or Michael Portillo might seek to do so, Mr Major said: "If anybody in

Continued on page 2, col 5

IRA prompts poll day security alert

Security plans for polling day were announced by the Home Office as the IRA again disrupted motorway traffic and set off bombs next to an electricity pylon beside the M6.

Before balloting begins 45,000 polling stations and 600 counting centres will be screened and extra police will be on guard .... Page 2

Dinosaur fossils found in China

A dinosaurs' graveyard found in a remote region of northern China also contains fossil remains of primitive birds, mammals, insects and plants, apparently frozen at a moment about 135 million years ago when a sudden catastrophe, perhaps a volcanic eruption, wiped them out .Page 17

Judge attacks CWS bidder's dishonesty

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A JUDGE in the High Court yesterday severely criticised the conduct of the 31-year-old entrepreneur Andrew Regan in his abortive £1.2 billion bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Mr Justice Gavin Lightman said it represented a "serious, gross and wilful breach of confidence" and was "clearly dishonest".

The judge added: "It was inevitable that this bid would be stopped as soon as it became apparent that it was based on iniquitous conduct." He ordered that CWS's legal costs be paid on a punitive "indemnity" basis by Mr Regan, his partner David Lyons, their companies Galileo and Lanica Trust, and Allen Green, a CWS executive suspended last week.

Mr Green has admitted passing commercially sensitive documents to Mr Regan and his associates and was videotaped doing so by a surveillance team hired by CWS. Mr Justice Lightman upheld an earlier order that none of the material obtained from Mr Green be used by Mr Regan or his associates.

Graham Melmoth, chief executive of the CWS, said yesterday that the society was determined to remain independent, adding that what had occurred "strikes at the heart of the City".

Raider to pay, page 27

Nothing
slips down easier
than a Hen with
no bones.

A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours.

A most Gratifying Ale.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 110; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 18.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 100; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 5.50; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

17

9 770140 046664

Lessons for fathers in their sons' schooling

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

FATHERS must become more involved in their sons' education if the widening gender gap in examination performance is to be closed, leading teachers said yesterday.

A booklet published by the Secondary Heads Association says that boys and girls must be taught in different ways and sets out a range of options for schools, including single-sex teaching. With girls outperforming boys at every stage of schooling, the heads said at the launch of a programme to tackle the problem: "There can be no quick fixes."

Peter Downes, the retired head teacher of Hinchingbrooke School, near John Major's home outside Huntingdon, said girls were now so far ahead that if the Prime Minister's vision of a grammar school in every town came to fruition, they would be dominated by girls. "The grammar schools would be full of girls and the secondary moderns full of boys. We would be creating ghettoes."

Mr Downes, a former SHA president who wrote the booklet with an education consultant and three other head teachers, said that a typical 14-year-old boy could concentrate for four to five minutes, compared with fifteen minutes for a girl. Schools had to take account of such differences.

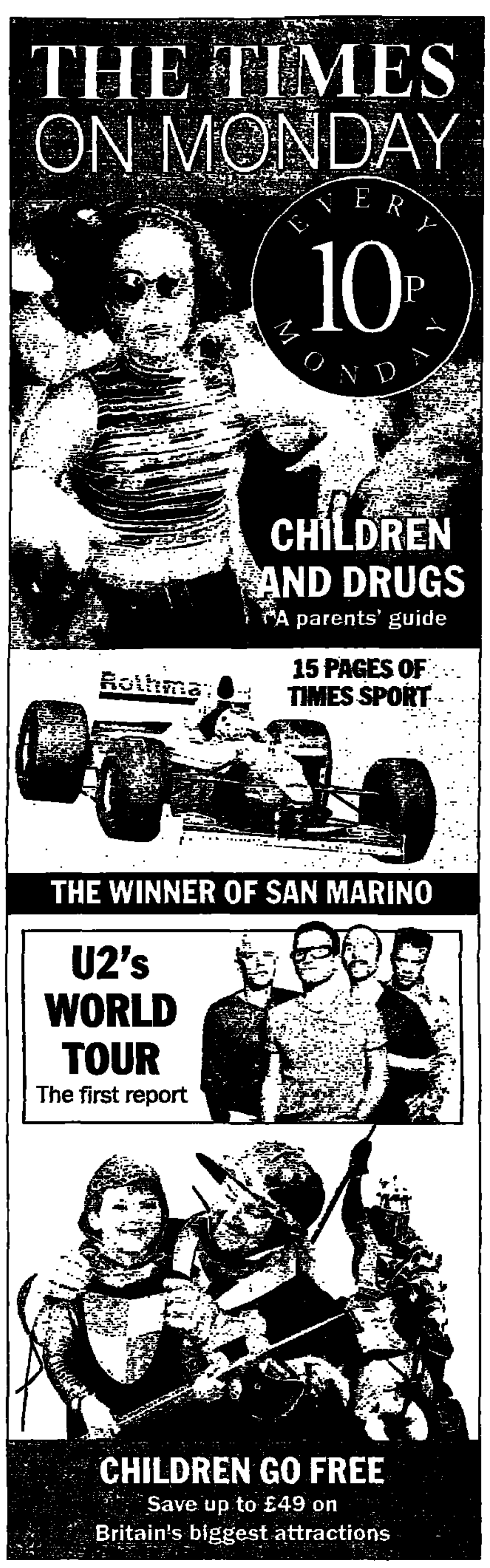
Mr Downes said boys required more direct contact with the teacher and frequent testing. In his own school, their requirements were addressed seriously only when he threatened to introduce single-sex classes. He had delivered a blunt, old-fashioned message about doing better at a series of boys-only assemblies and had focused extra attention on boys who did poorly in mock examinations.

Other schools featured in the booklet, *Can boys do better?*, had tried setting short-term targets for boys, appointing pastoral assistants to identify underachievement and introducing more rewards for success.

Four schools in Devon which launched their own study of underachievement found that staff were not as rigorous with boys as with girls, extending deadlines for work, having lower expectations and accepting poorer behaviour and presentation. Boys gained "street-cred" by not working and could not handle praise for their work, living on a mythology that there would be jobs for them whatever their results.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the poor performance of many boys was one of the most important issues for schools. The Government had introduced measures to drive up standards among low achievers, with boys in mind.

WEATHER 26
CROSSWORD 26
COURT & SOCIAL 24
LETTERS 23, 43
OBITUARIES 25
SIMON JENKINS 22
BUSINESS 27-30, 44, 45
WEEKEND MONEY .. 31-43
SPORT 46-52
GARDENS: WEEKEND ... 4, 5
PETS: WEEKEND 10
TRAVEL: WEEKEND 15-21



Polling stations to be screened for explosives

By Stewart Tendler, Daniel McGrory and Harvey Elliott

UNPRECEDENTED security plans for polling day were announced by the Home Office yesterday as the IRA again disrupted motorway traffic and set off bombs next to an electricity pylon beside the M6.

Under the Government's security proposals. 45,000 polling stations and 600 counting centres will be screened before balloting begins the next Thursday. Extra police will be on guard and voters may have bags and packages searched.

The security announcement was made as West Midlands police announced that two small bombs had exploded at the foot of a 100ft pylon by the M6, close to junction 10A near Walsall, in the rush hour. Last night a ten-mile stretch of the busiest section of motorway in Europe remained closed but Nottinghamshire police opened sections of the M1, which had closed during another alert. Luton Airport was also shut for six hours after a bomb warning.

West Midlands police said the bombs each weighed about 2lb, and could have had "horrendous implications." Police had not cleared the area because of an imprecise coded warning and the pylon might have fallen on the road or hit flats and an old people's home.

Yesterday — the fifth day of disruption since the start of the election campaign — the Home Office said a four-page security circular was being sent to all local government election officials. It said security was being stepped up out of prudence because of the IRA's current campaign of disruption and not because of any specific intelligence. Many returning officers responsible for balloting, and presiding officers who oversee counts, have contacted the Home Office for advice.

The circular says if effective security screening is organised by officials and police, major disruption such as an evacuation should not be necessary. Police will evaluate bomb threats in order to allow the electoral process to continue uninterrupted unless this would pose a clear risk to public safety.

If travel is disrupted, returning officers will treat the problem like an accident or a rail crash and continue with polling. If a polling station has to be evacuated then the advice is that the presiding officer should try to continue the voting in a temporary location if the electoral equipment can be moved safely. The Home Office say that the minimum required to continue polling should be the ballot box, ballot papers, the marked register, official stamp and the stationery necessary to process and record votes.

If the ballot box cannot be moved, then the police have to guard the polling station and stop anyone entering until the security threat is over.

Officials say that if disruption is so significant that a significant number of voters do not have the opportunity to vote, then it should be held over until the following day.

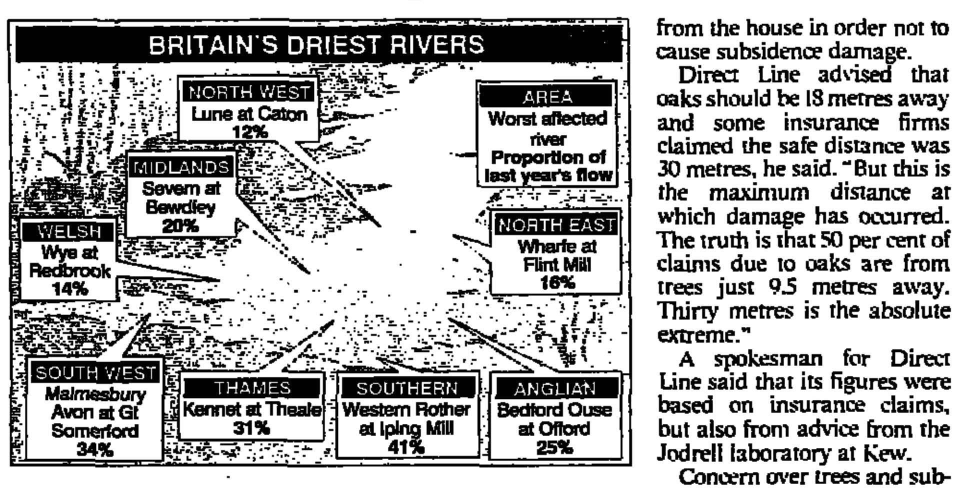
The IRA's rolling programme of disruption returned to the Midlands just after 7.30am yesterday with a coded warning. At one stage New Street Station and surrounding streets in Birm-ingham city centre were closed. Eventually police closed the M6 between junction 8 at Wednesbury and junction 11 at Cheslyn Hay. Adjoining sections of the M54 and the M5 junction were also closed.

The first of the bombs at the pylon exploded at about 8.30am and there was a second explosion five minutes later. Later Army experts carried out a controlled explosion at the pylon.

Tim Brain, Assistant Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said: "From everything that we've learnt today and in the past the terrorists are reckless about loss of life and injury and they are out to, through various methods, *cause confusion to the security* services and members of the public."

How to avoid drought subsidence

By Nick Nuttall



HOMEOWNERS whose houses are built on clay soils are advised to water garden trees and prune them back throughout the drought in an attempt to keep subsidence at bay. Insurance companies said yesterday that claims for cracks and damage had already risen by 12 per cent this year after three years of dry weather.

Ian Brett-Pitt, of Direct Line, urged gardeners to cut back old trees and plant new ones away from buildings. "Depending on the amount of rainfall between now and September, all the signs are that subsidence is likely to remain a significant issue this year," he said.

Giles Biddle, a former adviser to the National House Builders Council and the Department of the Environment, said that watering a tree reduced the risk of its roots sucking the ground dry and triggering ground movements that could damage foundations. But he said, that watering had to be maintained as it also encouraged root growth.

"Watering will supply water for the tree and minimise the amount of movement. But it can encourage roots to proliferate.

"That's fine if you carry on watering. But if you go away for two weeks in August, or you come under a sprinkler or hosepipe ban, then it could aggravate the problem."

Bathwater could be used during water shortages, he added, and house owners going on holiday should ask someone to continue watering while they were away.

Dr Biddle said that the problem was confined to clay soils and many insurance companies were exaggerating the distance trees needed to be from the house in order not to cause subsidence damage.

Direct Line advised that oaks should be 18 metres away and some insurance firms claimed the safe distance was 30 metres, he said. "But this is the maximum distance at which damage has occurred. The truth is that 50 per cent of claims due to oaks are from trees just 9.5 metres away. Thirty metres is the absolute extreme."

A spokesman for Direct Line said that its figures were based on insurance claims, but also from advice from the Jodrell laboratory at Kew.

Concern over trees and subsidence comes with the release yesterday of figures from the Environment Agency showing rivers running unseasonally low. In the Anglian region the Bedford Ouse at Offord is at 22 per cent of its normal flow compared with 87 per cent at the same time last year. In the Midlands the Severn at Bewdley is at 21 per cent of its normal flow compared to 104 per cent in April 1996.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bookmakers sued for lottery-style game

The National Lottery organiser is to take out a private prosecution against bookmakers who promote 49's, a lottery-style game available in betting shops. Camelot says that 49's is an illegal lottery likely to inflict losses on its own game and the causes it supports. The move comes after the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to take action against 49's, set up by Ladbrokes, Coral and William Hill with a daily draw in their shops.

The DPP decided that the game, with an estimated £3 million weekly turnover, was a fixed-odds betting game and therefore legal, even though it relied on the outcome of a chance event. Two attempts by Camelot to seek a judicial review of the DPP's ruling were turned down by the High Court which ruled that the only proper remedy was a private prosecution. William Hill said: "49's is not a lottery. A lottery operates on a pool principle — you cannot know how much you stand to win in advance. But with 49's if you back a bet that stands you to win £100,000 then everybody who placed the same bet wins £100,000."

Teaching college closes

A teacher training college in Hampshire has become the first to be closed for poor standards after being criticised by *successive inspections. La Sainte Union College, Southampton*, will lose accreditation at the end of the summer term. Its 850 trainees will be allowed to finish their courses and about 250 students due to start in September have been offered places at colleges in Winchester and Chichester. Southampton University said it would run a new college on the site based on its department of adult continuing education and La Sainte's non-teacher courses.

Phone user convicted

A driver who was using his mobile telephone while at the wheel was found guilty yesterday of causing death by dangerous driving. Peter Mill, 35, who denied the charge, was convicted after the jury at Reading Crown Court heard that he was listening to messages on his telephone leading up to the crash. He hit a vehicle being driven by Geoffrey Murray, who was killed. Sentencing was adjourned until next month. The RAC is revising its advice to its members, telling them not to use a mobile phone while driving, because it is a dangerous distraction.

Newspaper cleared

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, and two other judges yesterday cleared *The Independent* of contempt of court in its coverage of an arms-to-Iraq court case. The Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, had applied to have the newspaper's publishers fined and its former Editor, Ian Hargreaves, and senior reporter, Chris Blackhurst, committed to jail. He had accused them of breaching a judge's direction restricting the use of secret documents which helped to overturn the convictions of four men connected with the company Ordtech Ltd.

Open house for walkers

A High Court judge yesterday restored a right of way through a new house in Westbury, Wiltshire, even though the old path had been rerouted. Philip and Stephanie Stunnell, who had named the house Rambler's Rest because of the old path, said the ruling left them in a difficult situation as they would have to give walkers access to the house if they demanded it. Francis Morland, a local campaigner who brought the action, said he was making a point for walkers and did not intend to use the right of way. The Stunnells said they planned to change the name.

Lesbian film wins go-ahead at cinemas

A FILM exploring self-mutilation and graphic lesbian sex is to be released in Britain (Dalya Alberge writes). The British Board of Film Censors has awarded an 18-plus certificate to *Female Perversions*, just weeks after it approved *Crash*, about supposed sexual gratification from car crashes.

The main character in *Female Perversions is a bisexual high-powered* lawyer called Eve who has "wild sexual fantasies". She is played by the British actress Tilda Swinton, who most recently, starred as "a silent, breathing effigy", sleeping for seven days in a glass case at the Serpentine Gallery. The film is based on Louise J. Kaplan's book, *Female Perversions: The Temptations of Emma Bovary*, inspired by a lecture she delivered to psychoanalysts on whether women were as "perverse" as men. A spokesman for the distributors, The Feature Film Company, acknowledged that it is "not an easy film" and that several people had "walked out in disgust" at screenings; others had been "moved to tears".

Margaret Ford, BBFC deputy director, said: "It's a cerebral film which isn't perhaps for all audiences. Everything you see has meaning. It's not to titillate."

Pensions

Continued from page 1

my Cabinet actually prevailed *in an argument*. I would not only leave Downing Street, I would leave politics and I would call a general election. There is no question whatsoever that any Conservative Cabinet would countenance proposals like this."

However, Labour came under fire from groups representing the elderly over the party's scaremongering tactics, which were described as despicable.

Help the Aged said it had received "a significant" number of calls from pensioners asking whether their pensions would be abolished or cut. Mervyn Kohler, head of public affairs, said: "It is a terror tactic. It is quite unforgiveable that any political party should actually seek to frighten pensioners."

Mr Blair refused throughout the day to withdraw his charges that the Tories were set on abolishing the state system, and it was confirmed by senior Labour sources that canvassers were being actively encouraged to raise the issue on the doorsteps.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said it was a known fact that the "Conservative plan is to abolish the state pension, replacing the basic state pension with privately purchased provision". *He also queried* the suggestion in the proposals that, as well as new entrants to the world of work beginning to contribute to the new scheme after the election, "it might be possible to bring older people into the scheme at a later date *if public finances permitted*".

Both Mr Brown and Mr Blair questioned the source of funding: costs of £300 billion over 40 years would be incurred but the plan to remove tax relief from pension contributions under the new scheme would net only £150 billion.

BONUS POSTAL ACCOUNT

Waiting for your Woolwich or Halifax windfall?
Don't wait to move your savings.
Call us for information on our savings accounts.

MAXIMUM 6.6% GROSS P.A. RETURN

UNIQUE QUARTERLY BONUS

INSTANT ACCESS IF YOU WANT IT

	£100,000 plus	£50,000 - £99,999	£25,000 - £49,999	£10,000 - £24,999	£2,000 - £9,999
Equivalent Annual Rates (Gross)	6.60%	6.50%	6.45%	6.25%	5.65%
Quarterly Rates (Gross)	6.51%	6.42%	6.37%	6.17%	5.59%

Bonus Postal Account Rates Include A Unique Bonus On Your Minimum Balance For Each Quarter

CALL 0800 174 635 NOW
QUOTING REFERENCE A505C/10
OR COMPLETE COUPON BELOW

ABBEY NATIONAL®

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

You may be able to register with us to receive interest gross; otherwise it will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. Rates may vary. The minimum investment is £2000. A bonus is payable each quarter that the balance of the account does not fall below £2000. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor calls. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Please complete and send to:
Abbey National Direct Postal Account Centre, Freepost BE 1890, P O Box 422, Belfast BT2 7BR.
Name: ____________ Address: ____________
Phone Number: ____________ Signature(s): ____________
Please send me further information about the Abbey National Bonus Postal Account. ☐
L79/10

"Sunrise made the world's first portable Powerchair. So I let them make one for me."
30

If you're looking for a wheelchair you'll be looking for a chair you can rely on from a name you can trust.

You'll also be looking for style as well as comfort.

Sunrise Powerchairs will put you in the driving seat.
We'll design your chair especially for you.

Lightweight, folding or solid outdoor models, they'll all give you freedom and independence. They'll be 100% designed and built in Britain.

FOR A COPY OF OUR COLOUR BROCHURE AND FREE VIDEO, CALL THE NUMBER BELOW OR FILL IN AND POST THE COUPON.

*Written details upon request

CALL FREE
☎ 0800 16 33 65

SUNRISE MOBILITY
IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVES

Please send me my FREE Sunrise Powerchair colour brochure plus video. NTT 702
Mr/Mrs/Ms. (inc. initials) ____________ Telephone ____________
Address ____________
____________ Postcode ____________
Send to: Sunrise Mobility, FREEPOST DD348, Brierley Hill, DY5 1BR.
BRITISH MADE

Video camera captured neighbour who resorted to sabotage to keep up appearances

'Mrs Bucket' learns the cost of a touch of glass

By Russell Jenkins

JOSEPHINE Bradbury was counting the cost of keeping up appearances yesterday after she was caught by a video camera sprinkling glass on a neighbour's driveway to deter him parking his pick-up truck in her respectable street.

The whole unfortunate episode proved very trying for Bradbury, who runs the Bramhall Manor Hotel in Bramhall, Cheshire, and who — like Hyacinth Bucket (pronounced "Bouquet") played by Patricia Routledge in the BBC1 series — wanted only to keep the neighbourhood around her guesthouse up to scratch.

Bradbury, 68, was galvanised into action when Keith Palmer, head of an engineering firm, his wife, Emma, 34, and daughter Abigail, 5, moved in to a four-bedroom detached house opposite two years ago. Bradbury thought the house was like a "transit camp with all the coming and going". In the spirit of *Keeping up Appearances*, something drastic had to be done.

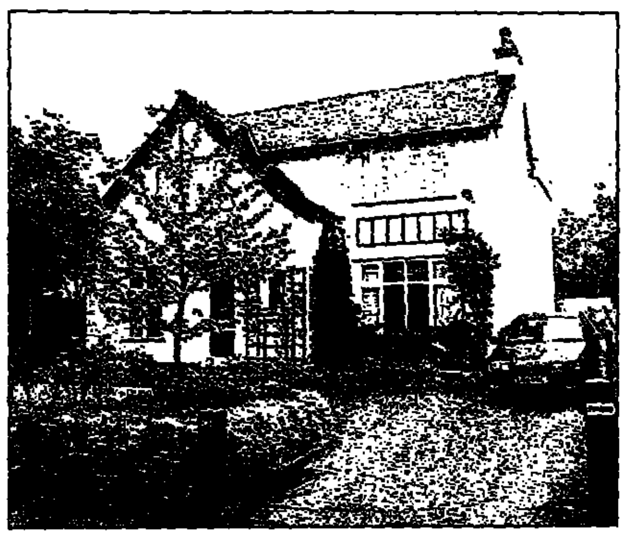
Mrs Palmer told Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester: "The first time I came across Mrs Bradbury was when I parked my BMW in the drive to collect my house keys. She first said this was a nice area then asked us what vehicles we drove.

"I said we had the BMW plus my husband's works truck but she said he would have to park it somewhere else because it wasn't in keeping with the area. He only ever parked it there on Sunday and that was because there was no parking restriction at that time of the week."

"Later Mrs Bradbury approached me when I went into the village and she said my roses needed pruning. She even complained to my husband about our automatic security light going on and off."

Last year the Palmers began noticing piles of glass at the spot where Mr Palmer normally parked his truck. The couple assumed children were to blame, but became concerned when glass started appearing three or four times a week. On the advice of an environmental health officer, they set up a video camera at the upstairs bedroom window to catch the culprit. They were astonished when the video captured Mrs Bradbury, not once but twice.

Keith and Emma Palmer, who had a video camera installed after glass was found on their drive, below



"It did not occur to me at all that it was her that was doing this," Mrs Palmer said.

Judge Geake dismissed Bradbury's appeal against Stockport magistrates' verdict last December and ordered her to pay a further £124 in costs in addition to a 12-month conditional discharge and £87 costs imposed by the magistrates. Bradbury had been charged with causing a danger to other road users.

Dressed flamboyantly in a black suit, black hat with a blue bow tied into the back of her long brown hair, Bradbury told the court: "The Palmers' house was like a transit camp — something always coming and going. But I was not bothered about the pick-up truck being parked there. Why should I be?

Pat "Bucket" Routledge

"On the day in question I had been sweeping up after having my hedge pruned and I saw a tom cat which had been a nuisance to my own female cats and rabbits. I walked across the road, chucked a pebble at it and said 'shoo' and he ran off. Unfortunately he was killed the following week."

After watching the video, Judge Geake said: "In our experience neighbours' disputes spin over and we are quite certain there was something of a background in this case."

Mrs Palmer described the episode as dreadful and traumatic.

She said: "We had both worked hard to buy this house because we fell in love with it when we first saw it. At first we said it was the house of our dreams. We weren't banking on a nightmare neighbour."

"We felt we had to take action because people could have injured with all this broken glass lying around. I take my daughter and some of her friends to school. Anyone of them could have been cut if they fell into it. Since we reported Mrs Bradbury the glass-dropping has stopped."

Bradbury complained last night that she was pitched into the appeal hearing without adequate preparation. She claimed she had never been allowed to see the video evidence. She maintained that the allegations were "totally untrue". "Using a video, that is dodgy to say the least," she said. "I am seeking Legal Aid to pursue a case for damages.

Bradbury added: "Quite frankly, when the police turned up I thought they were joke policemen, like something out of a Jeremy Beadle show. I didn't know anything about glass. I didn't know the Palmers and I don't want to know them. I have lost time, money and Christ knows what else. The legal system is an ass."

Video star: Josephine Bradbury, owner of the Bramall Manor Hotel, below

Hijacked post office van used in £2m robbery

By Michael Horsnell

MASKED gunmen escaped with more than £2 million after using a hijacked post office van in a "Trojan horse" raid on a Royal Mail sorting office. Police are hunting at least four men, believed to have handguns, who robbed the regional distribution depot in Redhill, Surrey.

Two employees who had been in the stolen van were kept hostage as the gang took more than 20 sacks containing cash, stamps and other items. Five other staff were forced into an office fitted with a time lock. A locksmith had to be called to free them.

The haul was driven away and transferred nearby to two white Transit vans, a white Ford Escort XR3 and an olive green Rover.

The gang had bypassed closed-circuit television cameras and coded locks. The hostages were found by police after a telephone call from a passer-by who had seen the vehicle being dumped.

Detective Superintendent Bill Harding, who is leading the inquiry, declined to say how the gang had bypassed the security systems at the depot, or whether the robbery was thought to have involved an inside accomplice.

He said: "The whole incident was over within 20 minutes. It was very quick. The two people taken hostage were extremely shaken up, but received only minor injuries after being bound. No shots were fired during the whole incident.

"Where the offenders went is not known and we are still investigating how they gained access into the sorting office. When they got into the building they threatened to shoot staff if they did not cooperate."

An incident room was set up and officers were making enquiries near where the van was dumped.

The Post Office refused to comment on the incident, but it was believed that union officials would be calling for action and an explanation as to how staff could be threatened in such an apparently secure facility.

Right-wing magazine is racist trash, says judge

By A Staff Reporter

A JUDGE said yesterday that he had never felt as uncomfortable as when leafing through racist "trash" published by a defendant.

Judge Butler had asked to see a copy of *Stormer*, a magazine published by an extreme right-wing group. He said: "It's absolutely chilling. I've rarely felt more uncomfortable than sitting in this seat flicking through that trash."

The publication was one of hundreds seized by police at the home of Mark Atkinson, 31, a refuse collector, of Egham, Surrey. Judge Butler said: "My instincts tell me he should go straight into custody, but that would not be the correct judicial process." Instead, he bailed Atkinson to live at a secret address until being sentenced at the end of a co-accused's trial, which is due to start in September.

Atkinson pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court, south London, to publishing two issues of *Stormer*, seized last May, which were threatening, abusive and insulting, intending to stir up racial hatred or whereby racial hatred was likely to be served.

He denied two charges of conspiring with another man to distribute threatening, abusive and insulting material and possessing the material with a view to distribution.

Commuter risks prison for right to smoke on train

By Adrian Lee

A COMMUTER pledged to go on defying a train company's smoking ban yesterday, just moments after a High Court judge ordered him to obey the rule.

Peter Boddington, 43, has flouted the policy on Connex South Central services between London and his home in Brighton for four years, and now risks jail. Outside court, he drew on a cigarette and declared that he would light up as normal, in his favourite spot in the buffet car, on his way home last night.

The French-owned train company obtained an injunction at the High Court after Mr Boddington — who owns Tooting Market in south London, where he runs a cut-price tobacco stall — refused to give up voluntarily. He is standing for Parliament in Tooting to highlight his cause.

Boddington: candidate

He is a 60-a-day smoker and gets through an average of six cigarettes on each journey. He argues that a 1962 bylaw allowing the regulation of smoking on trains was never meant to amount to a total ban.

A commuter for 25 years, Mr Boddington, a bachelor, has never held a driving licence and holds a £2,460 season ticket. Connex said the purchase of the ticket bound him to follow its rules, including the ban introduced by British Rail in 1993.

He has already been fined £10 under criminal law for breaking the ban and is appealing to the House of Lords. He was arrested again last week. He managed to endure 2½ hours in court without a cigarette, later attributing his temperance to a sore throat.

Michael Beloff, QC, for Connex, said the smoking policy was for the safety, health and convenience of other passengers. Mr Justice Ferris imposed an injunction until the House of Lords hears the criminal case.

Afterwards, Mr Boddington, supported by the smokers group Forest, said his legal costs had reached £20,000 but he would fight on: "Whether I go to prison is up to Connex. I will carry on smoking on the train."

Mother of disruptive boy jailed for threats

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

A MOTHER whose disruptive son nearly provoked a teachers' strike was jailed for three years yesterday for threatening to kill a housing officer.

Rita Wilding, 35, mounted a terror campaign against Gerald Bunting, whom she had earlier assaulted so badly, by pushing him down stairs, that he had to retire early.

The campaign included 72 threatening telephone calls and culminated in her knocking on Mr Bunting's door and telling him: "We've come to burn you." One of her sons then sprayed Mr Bunting with what he thought was petrol, but was in fact lemonade.

Sentencing her at Nottingham Crown Court, the Recorder, Alistair MacDuff, QC, said: "You have stepped into the witness box and told breathless lies. Society must be protected from people like you."

Wilding had targeted Mr Bunting after hearing comments he made on a television programme about violent women. She blamed him for the death of her husband, Philip, 57, from a heart attack.

Teachers at Glaisdale school, Nottingham, threatened to strike last year if they were forced to teach Richard Wilding, then 13, who was expelled for violent and disruptive behaviour.

Chef's ex-wife wins £10,000 for libel

By A Staff Reporter

KATALIN BLANC, the former wife of the chef Raymond Blanc, yesterday accepted libel damages believed to be in excess of £10,000 at the High Court. The damages follow a claim in *The Observer* that she contributed to a stroke her ex-husband suffered and subjected him to constant psychoanalysis.

Mme Blanc's counsel, Rupert Elliott, told Mr Justice Morland that the article last July was based on an interview with M Blanc, in which he spoke about the breakdown of his marriage.

He had given the interview despite the fact that he and his wife, a psychotherapist, had given court undertakings not to discuss the topic. "The article reported certain statements made by Mr Blanc about the stroke which he had suffered in 1991 in the course of his marriage to the plaintiff, suggesting that it had been the plaintiff who had contributed to his stroke or was to blame for it," Mr Elliott said.

"The article also reported comments which he made about the way in which he had been treated by the plaintiff and his allegations that she had subjected him to constant psychoanalysis."

Mr Elliott said that the article had caused Mme Blanc, of Oxford, enormous distress because she considered she had been portrayed as an insensitive woman who, through constant and obsessive psychoanalysis of her husband, had contributed to his suffering a stroke.

"As a psychotherapist whose function it is to be sensitive and caring with her patients and discreet and confidential in relation to their affairs, she felt that these reported allegations portrayed her as a person who was wholly unfit to practise as a psychotherapist. Moreover, these allegations were, all of them, entirely untrue and have caused her considerable embarrassment both personally and professionally," Mr Elliott said.

Richard Dickinson, for *The Observer*, said the newspaper apologised for the inferences drawn from its report. It had agreed to pay "significant" damages and Mme Blanc's legal costs.

Next time somebody tries to sell you a personal pension, ask them these tough questions.

Are your charges among the lowest in the business?

Some pension companies could take almost a fifth of your retirement fund in charges*. Virgin Direct's charges are amongst the lowest in the industry.

How much of my money are you personally going to take in commission?

People are often appalled at how much of their money disappears in commission. Virgin Direct refuse to employ salesmen or pay commission.

When I need to change the amount I save, will I be penalised in any way?

Many pension plans advertised as 'flexible' allow you to make changes but charge you through the nose for the privilege. With the Virgin Personal Pension you can stop, start, increase or decrease the amount you save and you won't have to pay a penalty for doing so.

How does the performance of your pension funds compare with the FT-SE Actuaries' All-Share Index?

This is the investment industry's most widely used benchmark. Very few fund managers keep pace with it. Many fail disastrously short. Virgin Direct championed 'index tracking', the success of which is now the biggest source of embarrassment to fund managers.

Once I've bought your pension, will I ever hear from you again?

Some companies you'll hardly hear from. Others you'll never see the back of!

Virgin Direct write to you twice a year to tell you how your pension is performing. If you wish, we'll also contact you once a year to make sure you're still on track and to see if there is anything you need to change. You're always in control.

Then decide for yourself who to choose.

If you'd like to know more about the Virgin Personal Pension, do give us a call. Tell us how much you would like to tuck away each month and we'll send you a personalised information pack.

direct
personal financial service

0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

*Source: Savings Market, Summer 1996.

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Services Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Past performance is not [illegible] guide to the future. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get [illegible]. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefits depends on how much tax you pay. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

Pharmacists issue heart warning over second hay fever drug

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

SAFETY fears about another hay fever drug were raised yesterday after the Government's announcement that a range of popular remedies is to be made available by prescription only.

Over-the-counter sales of 11 treatments containing the drug terfenadine, including Triludan and Aller-Eze Clear, are to be banned by the Committee on Safety of Medicines because of concern about its effect on the heart.

Yesterday the Royal Pharmaceutical Society said that two other popular brands, Pollon-Eze and Hismanal, should be removed from shop shelves because they may also cause heart problems. However, the Committee of Safety of Medicines said that astemizole, the active ingredient in the two remedies, posed a much lower risk than terfenadine.

Fourteen deaths in Britain have been associated with terfenadine since its introduction in 1982. Since 1992 users have been advised not to take it at the same time as antibiotic and antifungal medicines.

Research in America has shown that one 60mg tablet can affect the heart rhythm. The US Food and Drug Administration announced in January that it intended to withdraw approval for terfenadine after reports that it had been responsible for at least 17 deaths and 40 heart attacks there.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines will begin the consultation process for making terfenadine a prescription-only medicine on April 28. Chemists began taking the treatments off their shelves yesterday, but they will still be available on request. Two Boots own-brand products are among the 11. The store has instructed staff to tell customers about the risk and to advise them to use other tablets, nasal sprays and eye drops to control symptoms.

About nine million people suffer from pollen allergy. Dr Martyn Partridge, chief medical adviser to the National Asthma Campaign, said anyone concerned about their drugs should consult their doctor or talk to their pharmacist to obtain individual advice. The Committee on Safety of Medicines said that it would keep the astemizole-based drugs under review. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society said yesterday: "We are telling our members to take charge of the sales themselves so they can advise the public of potential adverse reactions."

The hay fever season has started early this year because of the low rainfall and warm weather. The National Asthma Campaign is to open its pollen line on Monday, a month early.

The pollen count is to be updated each day at 11am, with regional and national forecasts from sampling stations across the country. The number is 0171 971 0444.

☐ Grapefruit juice can be dangerous if taken with certain types of drugs, including terfenadine. The discovery was made accidentally after research on drug-test volunteers in America, who were not breaking down the drugs as rapidly as was expected so too much went into the bloodstream.

The one thing the volunteers had in common was the grapefruit juice given to them for breakfast. The juice was analysed and found to contain a chemical called psoralen, not known to exist in anything else, including the whole fruit.

The chemical inhibits the enzymes in the liver and intestine stopping them breaking down terfenadine, so that it enters the bloodstream. Terfenadine is dangerous to people with cardiac defects and high levels in the blood could kill them.

Treatments to be taken with caution

The following brands contain terfenadine: Triludan, Triludan Forte, Aller-Eze Clear, Boots Antihistamine Tablets, Hay Fever Relief Antihistamine Tablets and One-a-Day Antihistamine Tablets, Histafen, Seldane, Terfenor, Terfex and Terfinax.

Many other allergy drugs are not covered by the latest decision. However, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has advised chemists not to sell astemizole without warning that it could affect heart rhythm.

Some brands of hay fever products require a prescription, but many are available over the counter. Those based on loratadine and cetirizine do not cause drowsiness. Those that can cause drowsiness contain chlorpheniramine.

Terfenadine drugs should not be used by patients suffering from cardiac or liver disease. The recommended dose of 120mg daily in adults must be observed. Apart from not taking the drug with grapefruit juice, it should not be used at the same time as a number of antifungal or antibiotic drugs.

Discovery of giant planet suggests other Earths exist

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

AMERICAN astronomers have discovered a giant planet in orbit around a star that is very similar to our Sun.

The planet, the size of Jupiter, orbits a star called Rho Coronae Borealis in the Northern Crown constellation. The planet's surface temperature is at least 300C, much too hot for water to exist as a liquid, and therefore very unlikely to harbour life.

It may, however, be part of a solar system like ours. "There could well be many smaller planets in these systems that we just can't see by present techniques," said Dr Robert Noyes, of the Smithsonian Institution's Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Current techniques are not sophisticated enough to pick up smaller Earth-like planets, but the discovery of giant planets like this one reinforces the conviction that they must exist. "It's exciting to think that there may be many smaller planets much more like the Earth in orbit around these stars," Dr Noyes said.

Planets around distant stars cannot be seen, even with the most powerful telescope, as any light reflected from them is drowned by the much more powerful light of the star. Their presence must be deduced from small variations, or wobbles, in the motion of the star caused by the planet orbiting around it.

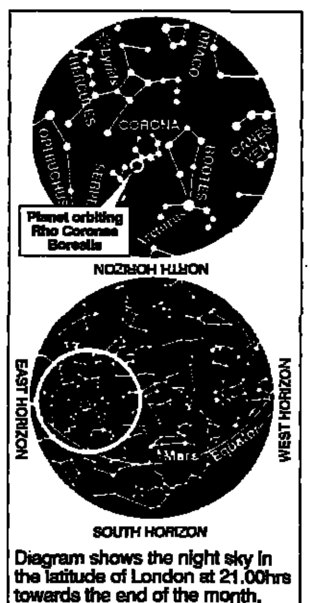


Diagram shows the night sky in the latitude of London at 21.00hrs towards the end of the month. Map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing is at the bottom

The American team, from the Smithsonian, the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, and Pennsylvania State University, used a spectrograph mounted on a 1.5-metre telescope at the Lawrence Whipple Observatory on Mount Hopkins, Arizona. They chose Rho Coronae Borealis, which is 50 light years away, because it is similar to the Sun.

After monitoring it for 11 months, the team concluded that the speed varied back and forth by about 150mph over 40 days, and from that, and the star's size, they calculate the planet must be slightly more massive than Jupiter and orbits the star every 40 days.

The short orbital period means that the planet must be close to the star, about a quarter of the distance between Earth and the Sun. That in turn implies that the temperature at the surface of the planet must be about 300C.

Dr Timothy Brown, of NCAR, who designed the spectrograph, says: "All the giant planets found so far orbit Sun-like stars. Rho Coronae Borealis is another one of these, but it appears to be about ten billion years old — twice as old as the Sun."

The unsolved mystery is why such massive planets should form so close to their parent stars. Current theories of the birth of the solar system suggest that large planets could form only a long way from stars. "The whole picture of solar-system formation needs to be looked at afresh in the light of these new planet discoveries," Dr Noyes said.

JULIAN HERBERT

Women rowers using Leander, such as this year's Oxford University crew, have been able to do so only as guests

Rowers to vote on women members

By Robin Young

BRITAIN'S premier rowing club must decide tomorrow whether to allow women to become members.

A £1.5 million National Lottery grant rides on the decision by the 179-year-old Leander Club at Henley-on-Thames, which numbers the Olympic gold medallists Stephen Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent among its members. The club, which is a focal point of the Royal Regatta, is planning a £2.3 million redevelopment, but a condition of the grant is that women be allowed as full members.

A special general meeting has been called for tomorrow at which the club's members will vote on a proposed change in the rules. Leander has 2,800 members, including associates, but only the 2,200 who have achieved the rowing standard required for full membership will be able to vote.

Anonymous letters have been sent to local newspapers and radio stations claiming that most members do not want women to be allowed in, but the club officers dismiss these as "mischievous dirty tricks".

John Beveridge, the honorary secretary, said yesterday he was sure the overriding majority of members were in favour of admitting women, but added: "We need a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Usually we have only 50 or so members attending, but we already know that about 300 are coming, and there may be many more. We think those we know are coming are generally in favour, but there could be an ambush. If we do not carry the vote first time, we will still have some months to try again."

Mr Beveridge pointed out that members' wives and widows were already able to use the social facilities of the club, and that women's crews regularly boated from the clubhouse as guests. "We do not have proper facilities to accommodate women rowers regularly," he said, "but that is one problem the redevelopment programme would take care of."

Gamekeeper cleared of cruelty after shooting cat

By Paul Wilkinson

A GAMEKEEPER working for one of the world's richest families was cleared yesterday of deliberately shooting and blinding a family's pet cat.

Mark Fawcett, 18, a Youth Training Scheme gamekeeper on the 7,000-acre Bollihope estate in Co Durham, owned by the Maktoum family, the rulers of Dubai, had denied charges of carrying a loaded shotgun in a public place and causing unnecessary cruelty to the cat, named Sooty.

Mr Fawcett, who works with his father, Peter, 44, shook hands with wellwishers as he left Bishop Auckland Magistrates' Court, but refused to comment.

Mr Fawcett, from Frosterly, Co Durham, was charged after the cat was shot in a field yards from its home last June. He said that he had been firing at a rabbit, and did not know that there was a cat in the field until after he had fired.

He was cleared after the court was told that rabbit holes had been noticed by magistrates during a visit to the scene.

Tony Monkhouse, 54, the cat's owner, said that he had seen the shooting and had found Sooty wriggling in agony on the grass as Mr Fawcett drove off at speed. Sooty still has nine pieces of shot in its body and will have to have an eye removed.

Alliance & Leicester Shareholders

Don't let the taxman get a share of your shares.

If you have decided to hold onto your new Alliance & Leicester shares you need to make sure the taxman doesn't get his hands on your money. Unless you take action by 30th May you may be subject to tax – you may have to pay tax on the dividends and have a tax bill if you sell your shares.

However there is an easy way to keep your Alliance & Leicester shares and pay no tax at all.

By putting your shares into a Personal Equity Plan with M&G, the UK's largest general PEP provider, you can receive the dividends free of tax and sell your shares whenever you wish tax free.

You can also put other windfall building society or insurance company shares into The M&G Windfall PEP.

So to keep all your shares and not pay a penny in tax, return the coupon or call us now on 0990 600 631.

To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET. Please send me details of the new M&G Windfall PEP.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL. You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value to you of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms INITIALS SURNAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE LC-DCAQ

M&G does not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited. (Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.)

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick this box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive the information.

M&G
WINDFALL PEP

The M&G Windfall PEP

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

The Style - The Value - The Catalogue - Yours Free From

JAMES MEADE LIMITED

Our 32 page *Women's Classics* catalogue is packed with items of clothing that are superior in quality, value and style. We use the finest fabrics and workmanship the world can offer and our attention to detail is impeccable.

Because we deal direct we keep our overheads low, passing the benefit on to you in the form of affordable prices. And to make the value even better, as a special introductory offer, I have deducted 10% from the current catalogue prices.

Featured here are some of the many items contained in our *Spring and Summer Classics* catalogue. Both stylish and classic, the boucle jacket is made in a wool and cotton blend, making it light and comfortable to wear. Shown with a co-ordinating navy pure wool skirt, it is one of the many elegant outfits on offer to you.

Made in the finest cotton Tana lawn from Liberty, the blouse shown below is classic in both style and fit. It is available in a choice of sleeve length, just one example of the attention to detail on which we insist. Or in a lightweight cotton blend, the blue Chambray dress is cool and comfortable to wear. Its many flattering features make it a must this season.

There is a wide choice. Whether it be shirts, dresses, suits, skirts, trousers, jackets, nightwear or knitwear that you are looking for, it is all here in *Women's Classics*.

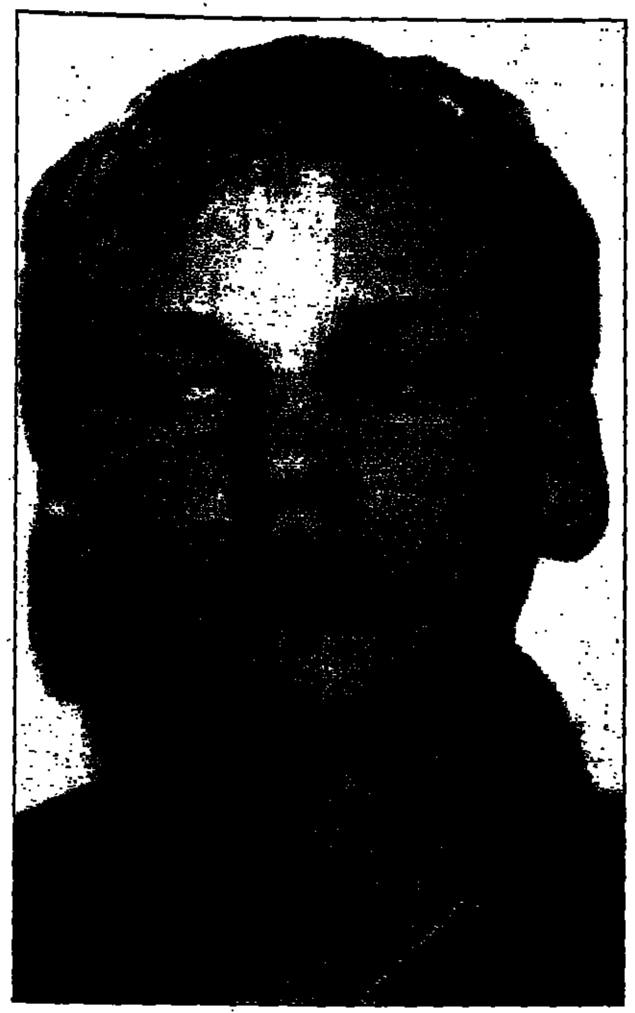
We are committed to providing you with the best the world can offer at affordable prices. Every item is backed by our guarantee of your satisfaction. Don't delay, order your FREE catalogue today to take advantage of our introductory offer.

☎ 01264 333222

Simply complete this coupon and send it to: James Meade Limited, FREEPOST (SN 1676), Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3BR, and we will send you your FREE copy of *Women's Classics*. Or telephone us on 01264 333222 quoting reference no BWTTER, or fax this coupon to us on 01264 363200 - do it today to take advantage of our special introductory offer.

Name ____________
Address ____________
Postcode ____________
Tel No ____________

If you do not wish to receive direct mail from other carefully selected companies, please let us know.



Daniel Storey, 14: picked up 66 times by police

Teenage burglars had been arrested 155 times

By Tim Jones

TWO teenage burglars who targeted disabled and helpless pensioners to finance their drugs habit had been arrested 155 times as they roamed the streets of Portsmouth looking for victims.

Daniel Storey, 14, described by some of his victims as "angelic", had been picked up by police on 66 occasions in 2½ years. Daniel Marsh, 17, had been arrested 49 times over the same period.

As they pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to burgle and conspiracy to steal, Judge Selwood lifted the anonymity usually given to young offenders, saying their victims and the public had a right to know who had committed the crimes. He ordered them to be detained at a secure institution.

Portsmouth Crown Court was told that the pair, arrogant and beyond parental control, roamed the city's streets and supermarkets seeking opportunities to pounce on pensioners who were alone. For their burglaries, they selected houses where they knew the occupants were old and weak. In just over 18 months they committed 55 thefts and burglaries. They were also linked to at least 30 thefts committed last summer in Cosham High Street when they snatched purses from elderly people.

Police following them once heard them planning to ambush an old woman who was confined to a wheelchair. Storey was heard to say to Marsh: "We will have to wait until she is on her own so we can get closer to her."

Sutton: pair stole his jewellery collection

They also strolled into a health centre and helped themselves to video equipment and cameras worth £1,700.

Another victim, James Sutton, had been out of his flat for only an hour when the pair squeezed through a small window and stole the jewellery collection he had built up with his wife. Mr Sutton, who suffers from emphysema, had recently buried his wife and was so distressed by the incident he had to spend three weeks in hospital.

He welcomed the sentences yesterday, adding: "What they did was a bitter pill for me. They also stole all my Christmas presents and wrote off the festive season for me." He added:"I think it was right they shoud be named to warn people about the terrible things these youngsters do."

Sentencing Storey, of Fratton, to three years, and Marsh, of Buckland, to five years, the judge said:"This catalogue of offences to which you have pleaded guilty shows a complete disregard for the public, for individuals and for the law. It is all too clear to me that on a number of occasions you chose soft targets carefully."

His decision to name the pair was welcomed by PC Rob Clarke, who led the investigation. He said: "It is about time the public were made aware of just who is behind these sorts of crimes and how young they are. In a majority of cases people don't believe how a boy as young as Storey has the gall to commit these sort of offences."

Storey's mother, Jacqueline Ogilvie, who wept after he was sentenced, said she had been powerless to stop him entering a life of crime. "Where we live, if you're not one of the gang you get your head kicked in. I should have been harsher on him. Naturally I blame myself."

Ben Compton, for Storey, had told the court: "His appearance belies his age. The picture is one of a young man who is completely out of control."

Daniel Marsh, 17: five years at a secure institution

Passover guests are poisoned by mousse

By Russell Jenkins

THIRTY people have been struck down by food poisoning after celebrating Passover and many more cases are expected among the Jewish community in north Manchester.

The victims of the salmonella bug all come from Whitefield and attended a celebration held on Monday evening, when the eight-day festival began. Three people, including a girl aged nine, are in hospital. Four members of one family have been bedridden; a woman, her father, her husband and her daughter were all in serious discomfort until they began to feel slightly better yesterday. The woman said she was awaiting results of tests.

All are believed to have eaten a chocolate mousse served by an outside organisation, and began to suffer discomfort and diarrhoea within 48 hours.

Environmental health officers at Bury council believe that there could be as many as 400 cases. Samples are being analysed to determine the source of the outbreak.

Sugar levels not declared on most food labels

By Robin Young

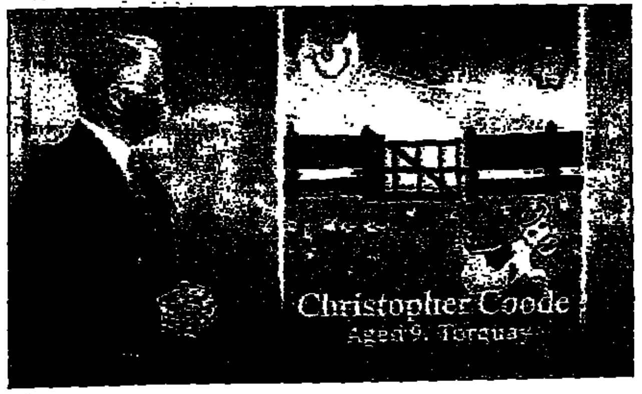
MORE than half of all sweetened food and drink products make no declaration on their packaging of the amount of sugar they contain, according to the largest survey to date of nutritional labelling.

Action & Information on Sugars, a voluntary network of health professionals, examined 1,350 products and awarded its "golden carrot award", for the best contribution to health promotion in the field of sugar, to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which declares the sugar content on all its 3,000 own-label food and drinks.

The network will present brand-by-brand reports on food and drink product labelling next month, but announced yesterday that the CWS adopted the "most constructive" approach.

Brands that did not declare their sugar content, it said, included all the main brands of soft drinks and confectionery. Manufacturers are not obliged under current law to publicise precise sugar contents.

BBC discovers child prodigy, 11 years late



ANY mother would be excited to see a drawing by her son on television (Tim Jones writes). But they wouldn't all be as puzzled as Diana Coode.

BBC South West, which uses drawings sent in by schoolchildren to illustrate its weather forecasts, chose one by her son, Christopher. But Christopher is a 20-year-old art student. He had sent in the drawing 11 years ago, when he was at Watcombe primary school in Torquay.

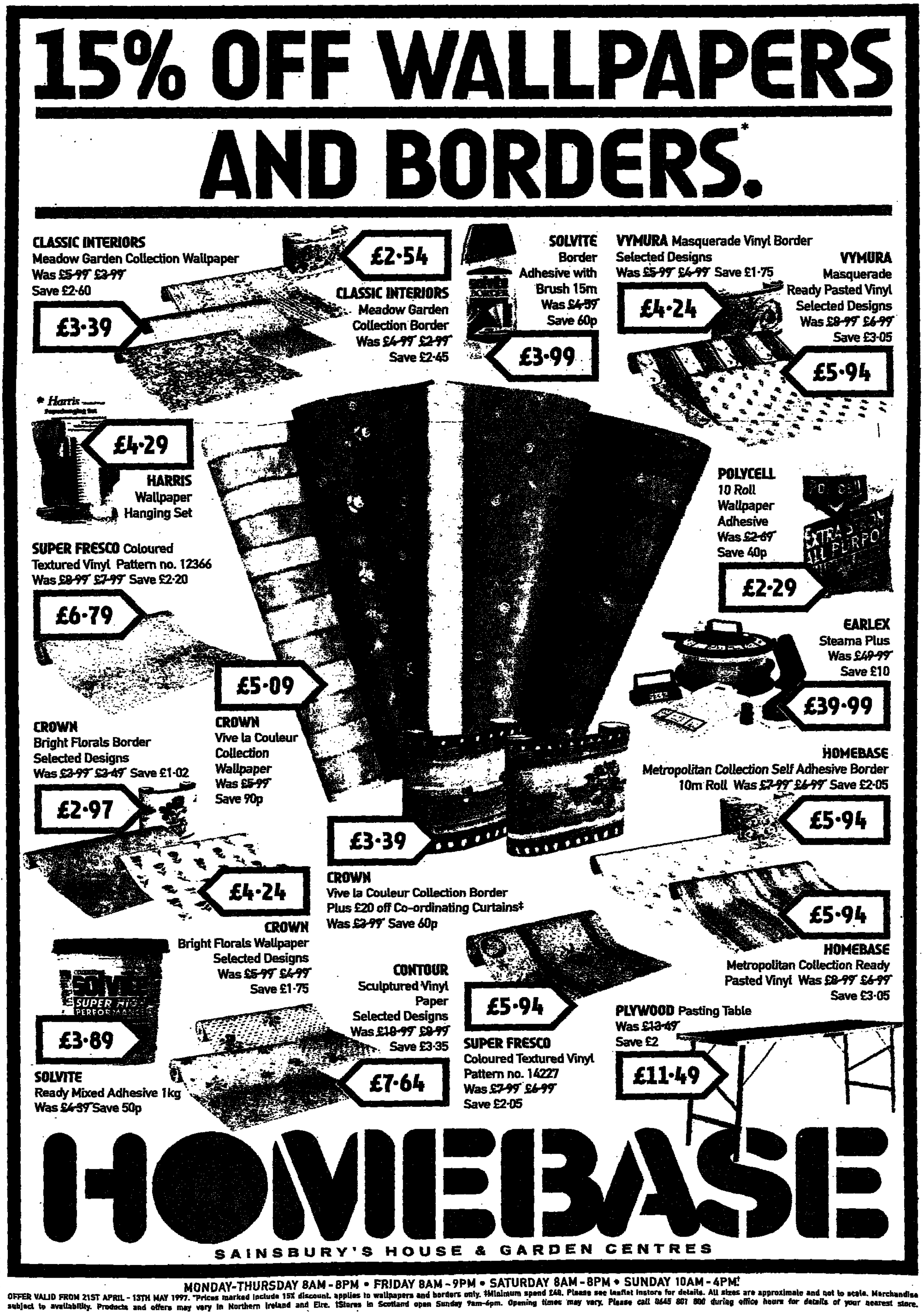
The station's weatherman, Craig Rich, said he recently cleared out his desk: "This is one of the funniest things that has happened to me in broadcasting. The picture must have been there for ten years and resurfaced when I cleared it out a couple of weeks ago."

New from America

Advil
IBUPROFEN
Advanced
medicine for pain

Nothing is proven to work better for headaches.

*Trade mark. Always read the label.



15% OFF WALLPAPERS AND BORDERS.*

CLASSIC INTERIORS Meadow Garden Collection Wallpaper Was ~~£5·99~~ ~~£3·99~~ Save £2·60 £3·39

CLASSIC INTERIORS Meadow Garden Collection Border Was ~~£4·99~~ ~~£2·99~~ Save £2·45 £2·54

SOLVITE Border Adhesive with Brush 15m Was ~~£4·59~~ Save 60p £3·99

VYMURA Masquerade Vinyl Border Selected Designs Was ~~£5·99~~ ~~£4·99~~ Save £1·75 £4·24

VYMURA Masquerade Ready Pasted Vinyl Selected Designs Was ~~£8·99~~ ~~£6·99~~ Save £3·05 £5·94

HARRIS Wallpaper Hanging Set £4·29

POLYCELL 10 Roll Wallpaper Adhesive Was ~~£2·69~~ Save 40p £2·29

SUPER FRESCO Coloured Textured Vinyl Pattern no. 12366 Was ~~£8·99~~ ~~£7·99~~ Save £2·20 £6·79

EARLEX Steama Plus Was ~~£49·99~~ Save £10 £39·99

CROWN Vive la Couleur Collection Wallpaper Was ~~£5·99~~ Save 90p £5·09

CROWN Bright Florals Border Selected Designs Was ~~£3·99~~ ~~£3·49~~ Save £1·02 £2·97

HOMEBASE Metropolitan Collection Self Adhesive Border 10m Roll Was ~~£7·99~~ ~~£6·99~~ Save £2·05 £5·94

CROWN Vive la Couleur Collection Border Plus £20 off Co-ordinating Curtains‡ Was ~~£3·99~~ Save 60p £3·39

CROWN Bright Florals Wallpaper Selected Designs Was ~~£5·99~~ ~~£4·99~~ Save £1·75 £4·24

HOMEBASE Metropolitan Collection Ready Pasted Vinyl Was ~~£8·99~~ ~~£6·99~~ Save £3·05 £5·94

SOLVITE Ready Mixed Adhesive 1kg Was ~~£4·39~~ Save 50p £3·89

CONTOUR Sculptured Vinyl Paper Selected Designs Was ~~£10·99~~ ~~£8·99~~ Save £3·35 £7·64

SUPER FRESCO Coloured Textured Vinyl Pattern no. 14227 Was ~~£7·99~~ ~~£6·99~~ Save £2·05 £5·94

PLYWOOD Pasting Table Was ~~£13·49~~ Save £2 £11·49

HOMEBASE
SAINSBURY'S HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM†

OFFER VALID FROM 21ST APRIL - 13TH MAY 1997. *Prices marked include 15% discount, applies to wallpapers and borders only. ‡Minimum spend £40. Please see leaflet instore for details. All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. †Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Simon Sebag Montefiore meets Lord Winston

“Labour's fundamental problem is that they are concerned the Lords will delay their vital reforms. Why change it when they've got nothing better to replace it with? Hereditary peers may be untenable but they should let them burn out gradually”

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Ex-SAS man tried to sell guns to undercover police

By Bill Frost

Robert Scott took part in the Iranian Embassy operation

A FORMER SAS sniper with a string of service decorations was jailed for three years yesterday for illegally supplying arms and ammunition to a man he believed to be an East End gang leader.

Robert Scott, who was in action during the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege, hoped the deal to provide a sub-machinegun and dumdum bullets would lead to lucrative legitimate training work. But the gang leader was an undercover policeman.

Judge Inman told Scott, who was arrested shortly after the Dunblane shootings, that, with his military background, he must have been aware of the danger to society of supplying guns to a "dangerous criminal. It is a tragedy for someone like you to be involved in such a trade," he told Scott, 49, who had admitted two charges at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court.

David Spencer, 38, a former soldier with a distinguished record, who admitted handling a Vectra M4 submachine pistol, received an 18-month sentence. The judge told Spencer, of Ashford, Kent: "You, too, must have been aware of the horrendous dangers of allowing lethal weapons to circulate illegally."

In the dock with them was Christopher Hale, a former MI6 officer, who admitted supplying the policeman with a .32 Astra revolver and ammunition. He will be sentenced next week.

Hale, 57, of Southfields, southwest London, became friendly with Scott when they worked for the Security Services. He helped to invent a remote-control bomb defuser and was commended by the US Government for his help in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Scott, of Chobham, Surrey, spent ten years in Northern Ireland tracking terrorists for MI5 and Special Branch. He was also a stunt man, appearing in the Sylvester Stallone film *Cliffhanger*.

The last survivor of the regiment's 1971 intake — the others all having died in action — Scott first saw action during the Oman campaign when he led raids behind enemy lines. By the early 1980s he had become one of the SAS's parachute instructors. He regularly featured in the *Guinness Book of Records* for parachute jumps, always under false names.

The three men were arrested after undercover police faxed a "shopping list" for military guns. Two officers, known as Robert Cooper and Billy, were put in touch with Scott by a businessman who used his shooting club in Bisley, Surrey.

Cooper hinted that he could provide legitimate army-style training work worth hundreds of thousands of pounds if Scott helped Billy. Scott also discussed the possible supply of sawn-off shotguns and, at one stage, advised how explosives could be used to blow off the back of another gang's vehicle.

As Scott stood with his head bowed yesterday, the judge told him that, although his counsel had insisted he had been "badgered, pestered and pushed" into becoming involved by an undercover policeman posing as an "Arthur Daley-type" villain, he could easily have pulled out of the negotiations at any time.

NEIL MUNNS

David Spencer: he had a distinguished Service record

NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth in court over death of girl aged 9

A 16-year-old youth appeared in court yesterday accused of causing the death of nine-year-old Teleri West, who was knocked down and killed by a stolen car outside her home. He faced eight charges, including dangerous driving, being over the alcohol limit, taking and driving away a vehicle, and driving while disqualified and without insurance. The youth, who had suffered a black eye, was remanded in custody until next Wednesday at Cardiff Youth Court.

A stolen Vauxhall Nova struck Teleri as she played on the pavement with her neighbour, Sean Rogers, at Morganstown, Cardiff, on Wednesday evening. She was killed instantly. Sean, 14, suffered leg and hip injuries, and is in a satisfactory condition.

Abuser jailed

A former social worker who indecently assaulted boys in his care was jailed for two years at Manchester Crown Court. Thomas Bradley, 50, a father of two from Lytham, Lancashire, admitted four charges of indecent assault and one of making an indecent video of boys.

School bus crash

A minibus carrying children to school crashed, seriously injuring a boy aged 12 and three adults. The bus was taking 20 pupils to St Mark's High School in Castlewellan, Co Down, when it was in collision with a van. Five children were treated for cuts and bruises.

M25 case remand

Terrence Hole, 45, was remanded in custody until his trial in August by Maidstone Crown Court. He denies perverting the course of justice in relation to the murder of Stephen Cameron, who was stabbed to death at the M25 Swanley interchange in Kent last May.

Unequal law

Sixty-eight per cent of staff in the magistrates' courts system are female, but women and ethnic minorities make up only 7 per cent of senior administrators and clerks, says a survey by the Lord Chancellor's Department disclosed by the Association of Magisterial Officers.

Hit and run

A man sentenced to six months for assault by magistrates at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, made a run for it after being told to wait outside the court for security guards to collect him. Police and Group 4 both denied that Steven Burwood's escape was their responsibility.

Shell shock

A tortoise named Tom has laid three eggs at Disley, Cheshire. Fifteen platonic years with its companion, Dick, ended soon after they woke up from hibernation. Tom has been renamed Tomboy, and the eggs are being incubated at Stockport Tortoise Sanctuary.

Fireman wins claim over racist taunts

By A Staff Reporter

AN ASIAN fireman, who was continually mocked and called Gunga Din and then ignored by his colleagues for three years when he complained, won his claim for racial discrimination yesterday.

Warren Mann, a part-time fireman at Painswick, in Gloucestershire, told the tribunal that the ten-man crew would leave him behind as their "char, wallah" when they answered emergency calls. Senior officers dismissed his complaints and Mr Mann, 34, said the other firefighters then "sent me to Coventry" for three years, shattering his self-confidence.

The fire officer who led the taunts, Brendan Gibbs, 53, has been suspended from duty. Gloucestershire Fire Brigade is to decide his future next week.

Mr Mann, who became a fireman in 1993, and also works part-time as a lorry driver, has returned to work at Painswick. He said yesterday: "I hope this decision will allow everyone to put what happened firmly into the past and start afresh."

At the brigade's Gloucester headquarters yesterday, divisional officer Adrian Clissold said: "We will not tolerate this sort of behaviour. We have to decide how we can rebuild morale among this crew. It is a possibility that some may be moved."

Colin Toomber, chairman of the Bristol tribunal, said he was "satisfied that the firefighters did make racist comments in the applicant's presence". The tribunal adjourned its decision for a month on whether Mr Mann should receive compensation.

THE COMET PRICE index
YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER

You've told us that the weekend is the best time to go shopping, particularly for items which need a family decision. This is why you'll find The Comet Price Index in the national papers every Saturday. You can also see The Comet Price Index updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 page 436

As you never know what you may need, the Comet Price Index contains the top brands on all types of electrical goods available at your local Comet store.

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED
The Comet Price Promise guarantees that, if you buy any product then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

AWARD WINNING PRODUCTS
These experts test and review our range. Products displayed with ■ denote award winning products and ☐ denote highly recommended products.

NO CLAIM MONEY BACK 5-YEAR WARRANTY
A single payment guarantees five years comprehensive cover against product breakdown. If, after five years, you've made no claim, you can get all your warranty money back in full.*

LAUNDRY PRODUCTS — OVER 55 IN STORE
REFRIGERATION PRODUCTS — OVER 65 PRODUCTS IN STORE
DISHWASHERS — OVER 15 IN STORE
COOKING APPLIANCES
MICROWAVES — OVER 25 IN STORE
VACUUM CLEANERS — OVER 30 IN STORE
AIR COOLING — MORE IN STORE
SMALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES — OVER 100 IN STORE
TELEVISIONS — OVER 80 IN STORE
TV/VIDEO COMBIS
VIDEO RECORDERS — OVER 40 IN STORE
TV/VIDEO PACKAGES — MORE PACKAGES IN STORE
HOME CINEMA SOUND KITS — MORE IN STORE
SATELLITE SYSTEMS — MORE IN STORE
CAMCORDERS — MORE IN STORE
ACCESSORIES — OVER 450 IN STORE
CD HI-FI SYSTEMS — OVER 130 PRODUCTS IN STORE
GAMES PACKS
MULTIMEDIA PCs & PRINTERS
PHONES FAXES & ANSWERING MACHINES — OVER 55 IN STORE

COMET
MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS
RING FREE ON 0500 425 425 FOR LOCAL STORE INFORMATION

Travel as many times as you like from £59.95 a year.

Take out American Express annual travel insurance and you can make £59.95 go a long way. Because one payment means you can take an unlimited number of trips throughout the year.

And now you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enjoy this extra security.

Example Travel Insurance Rates

	Individual Under 65's	Family 2 adults & 2 children
Single trip cover. Europe up to 17 days.	£23.45	£58.55
European annual cover. Up to 31 days per trip.	£59.95	£99.95
Worldwide annual cover. Up to 91 days per trip.	£94.95	£144.95

Annual cover includes 17 days winter sports cover, saving you around £53. Rates are available for those aged over 65 years.

To enrol, call the number below between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday or 9am to 5pm on Saturday quoting reference TK31.

0800 700 737

Certain exclusions and eligibility limitations apply. Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American Express Services Europe Limited is an Independent Intermediary governed by the ABI code of conduct.

Insurance Services

هكذا من الأزل

AFTER YEARS OF EXPOSURE to the ravages of nature, most things out here have had their day. Not so the Jeep Cherokee Limited. With massive torque and superb ground clearance it continues to overcome obstacles other 4x4s can't. You know the stuff: boulders, river beds, mountains. Jeep's unique quadra link front suspension gives saloon car-like handling, making driving off road as smooth as cruising on it. And, whether you choose the 2.5 litre turbo diesel or 4.0 litre petrol, you can always rely on the legendary 4x4 system to keep you going. And going. But, being the new Cherokee, it doesn't stop there. Inside its redesigned interior you'll find air-conditioning, cruise control and automatic transmission*. ABS and dual airbags guarantee safety. And a superb 6 speaker stereo drowns out the sound of other drivers' frustration as you go places they can only dream about. Prices start at £22,895 on the road. THE NEW JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED.

Lone Pine, Owens Valley, Sierra Nevada

Jeep
THERE'S ONLY ONE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0800 616159.

*AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION ONLY AVAILABLE ON 4.0 LITRE MODEL. THE JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED RANGE: 2.5 LITRE TURBO DIESEL LIMITED (CLOTH) £22,895, 2.5 LITRE TURBO DIESEL LIMITED (LEATHER) £23,995, 4.0 LITRE LIMITED (CLOTH) £22,895, 4.0 LITRE LIMITED (LEATHER) £23,995. ALL PRICES ARE ON THE ROAD AND INCLUDE 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE (£145PA). PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

SEND COUPON TO JEEP INFORMATION SERVICE, FREEPOST 1048, SANDWICH, KENT CT13 9BR.

MR/MRS/MISS/MS (Initials)..................SURNAME ....ADDRESS ....PHONE BUSINESS..............................GT4-97
....POSTCODE...................PHONE HOME..........................

Father and daughter guilty of obstruction as street sermon angered crowd

Brimstone preachers refused to cool down

By Paul Wilkinson

STREET preachers claimed persecution yesterday after a father and daughter were found guilty of wilfully obstructing police while delivering a fire-and-brimstone message to shoppers. They said that they ultimately answered to a higher authority.

Magistrates at York were told that the crowd's reaction to their aggressive message became hostile, a gang of youths had sprayed them with an aerosol, and there was fear that the situation could spiral out of control. Alan Bate, 51, and his daughter, Alison Redmond-Bate, 24, had refused police requests to move on.

Yesterday, after they were given a one-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs, their solicitor, Malcolm Nowell, said they would consider an appeal. "These issues are so important they need to be heard in a higher court," he said.

Rob McLean, another open-air preacher from Mattersey Bible College, Doncaster, said that the verdict was a blow to the many hundreds of preachers up and down the country. He said: "Preachers have not been convicted for anything like this for well over 100 years. We follow a higher authority, God's Word, and say what He tells us. We are being persecuted for our religious beliefs."

Bate and his daughter are both members of the Faith Ministries group from Leeds. In the past six months, a number of its followers have been arrested, but previously they had been released after a warning or made the subject of civil court orders excluding them from specified areas.

Last month two of its members, Ian Duffield, 38, and Gavin Jackson, 20, spent three weeks in jail for breaking an order banning them from York. They had been arrested for obstruction on four occasions while shouting "Sinners" at drinkers leaving pubs in the city.

In the latest case the two-day trial was told that nearly 400 shoppers gathered by a fountain in the city centre to hear Bate, a mature electronics student at Leeds University, and his daughter preaching fire-and-brimstone messages about turning their backs on God.

Alison Redmond-Bate and her father, Alan Bate: they said that they answered to a higher authority

Alan Mitcheson, for the prosecution, said that the crowd became unsettled and a group of youths had sprayed aerosol party string on them. Mr Bate was covered with it. "There was a fear trouble could arise because the crowd got hostile." Thomas Hughes, a city centre services officer, said that he called police after the preachers refused to tone down their aggressive style: "I asked Miss Redmond-Bate to ask her father if he could stop, but she said God was talking through him and it was impossible to interrupt."

Police said that Bate looked very aggressive, his face was "blood-red", he was shouting at the top of his voice and marching in circles, waving his arms in the air. When he refused to move on, he was arrested.

Even after that he "unleashed a barrage of religious hype and highly charged twaddle", said one of the officers.

Then Redmond-Bate began to shout. She ignored a warning that she too was inciting the huge crowd and was also arrested.

Bate, of Moortown, Leeds, said that in the past few years God had told them to preach His message to the country. "He believes this nation is in great trouble," he said. His daughter, of Woodlesford, Leeds, said that she was told to go to York and "Preach at the fountain". They refused to comment on the verdict.

Joy at Church of Ireland resurrection

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

THE Anglican church in Ireland has a rare success story on its hands in Dublin, where a church is being reconsecrated for the first time. St Catherine's in Thomas Street, in the south inner city, was closed and deconsecrated 30 years ago because of dwindling numbers.

But the growth of another Dublin congregation has generated new demands for space. It is now planned to refurbish St Catherine's, owned by Dublin Corporation, to allow the Church of Ireland to move back in.

The reopening of the church, to house a charismatic evangelical congregation, indicates that Ireland is now experiencing the phenomenal growth in this form of worship which has transformed dozens of churches in Britain over the past decade and hundreds in the United States over the past 20 years. Liz Harries, spokeswoman for the Church of Ireland, said the plan marked a turning point: "We have closed so many churches over the years, so opening one again is a source of great joy for such a small population to witness. We are terribly encouraged."

Anglican churches have been closing all over Ireland — north and south — since the turn of the century as the Protestant population left the country or married Roman Catholics. Eight years ago, church membership reached its lowest level of about 325,000, two thirds of whom were in Northern Ireland. Immigration from Germany, Britain and The Netherlands to rural retreats in the south and west has boosted numbers to about 400,000.

The Rev Willi Stewart, who started the evangelical services at St Werburgh's, has witnessed rare and rapid growth in his Dublin parish. Less than four years ago he and 12 people moved there to establish the evangelical congregation.

The congregation has now grown to 120 and includes lapsed Catholics. St Catherine's will be their new home once they find the £1.5 million required for the refurbishment, although a smaller, more traditional congregation will continue to worship at St Werburgh's.

Mr Stewart heads the only charismatic evangelical congregation in Dublin and one of a handful in Ireland as a whole.

Built in 1775, St Catherine's is a listed building. Mr Stewart said: "It needs a new roof, lighting, heating and new furnishings, but we are absolutely thrilled to be reversing the decay." One deconsecrated Anglican church in Dublin has become a design shop, while another, St George's, is a nightclub.

At Your Service
Weekend, page 11

Credo

Holy sites give pilgrims a chance to renew faith

Martin Warner

This summer thousands of people will set out on pilgrimage to a holy place. They will be following well-worn paths, and those who travel to Little Walsingham in Norfolk will be part of a tradition which stretches back to the 11th century.

Known before the Reformation as England's Nazareth, Little Walsingham became a pilgrimage site as the result of a vision given to the Lady of the Manor, Richeldis de Faverche in 1061. She was shown by the Virgin Mary the house of Gabriel's salutation in Nazareth and was instructed to build a replica of that house. The site was then encased in a pilgrimage church administered by Augustinian canons.

Thousands of pilgrims now visit Little Walsingham every year. Drawn by more than historical interest, they come on a journey to deepen their faith through an encounter with the living God.

Pilgrimage is a demonstration of the human response to Jesus's call to discipleship: "Follow me." It encompasses the baptismal experience of repentance, forgiveness and healing.

The journey to a holy place is a vital part of the experience. Leaving behind things that are familiar and safe opens us to the possibility of an encounter with God. The great pilgrimage sites are points of interchange between Earth and Heaven.

I have often heard pilgrims describe how the peace they find in holy places enables them to face with renewed faith the trials of life and discover a new depth to their spiritual life.

In the Anglican shrine at Little Walsingham people gather each day at 6pm for prayers. This is the offering to God of pilgrims' prayers, encompassing all aspects of life: a broken marriage, a person with leukaemia or thanksgiving for the birth of a daughter.

In art, hymnody and the enacted symbol of pilgrimage Mary expresses at a point of interchange the nature of our Christian discipleship; that we are chosen by God to be a people who travel from Earth to Heaven.

The role of Mary, the mother of Jesus, is essentially scriptural and human. She responds joyfully to God, offering him simply that of which she is capable, bearing a child.

Mary's identity as woman, mother and disciple is simply and particularly what St Paul describes in his letter to the Romans as "the glory which is destined to be disclosed for us". Her experience is therefore close to ours, especially at moments of uncertainty and pain.

No pilgrim journey is without its difficulties. For Christians it is also the way of the Cross, and it is inevitable that we should all encounter on it evil, sinfulness, pain and rejection.

In 1538 the Walsingham shrine was suppressed and pilgrimage ceased. But this century it has been transformed and renewed in a remarkable way. A place that witnessed terrible destruction and sacrilege has also become a symbol of healing and reconciliation.

It can be a costly and disturbing experience to become a pilgrim and seek God on hallowed ground. But the vision of Heaven, which in such places seems almost within our grasp, draws us up into the company of the heavenly orders with all the saints. There we are confronted with the love of the Father, which was revealed in his incarnate Son and, through the Holy Spirit, still abides on Earth.

☐ *The Rev Martin Warner is administrator of the Anglican shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk.*

The Rev Martin Warner at Walsingham

Cookson donates £50,000 for study of nuclear test veterans

By Michael Horsnell

DAME Catherine Cookson has donated £50,000 to ex-servicemen who suffered illness after being involved with nuclear tests.

The 90-year-old novelist made the gift to help to fund an independent study after learning of the veterans' distrust of government-sponsored health surveys. It is the latest of many charitable donations made by the bedridden Dame Catherine, who suffers from a blood disorder and is nearly blind. She donated £40,000 last year to help to revive Charters-Ancaster College in East Sussex, which had closed because of falling pupil numbers.

A spokeswoman for her agents, Anthony Sheil Associates, said yesterday: "She is a generous woman, but she never comments on the donations she makes."

Dame Catherine, who still creates stories by dictation, sent her donation through her husband, Tom, after hearing of the work of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association. The veterans are due to hold their fourteenth annual general meeting in Blackpool today. Ken McGinley, the chairman, said: "We have been fighting for justice for many years and this will give our 3,000 members tremendous hope.

"The cheque arrived out of the blue after we had sent numerous appeals to various people for help. It is the most we have ever received and will be used to fund an independent health study into the ex-servicemen who took part in the tests."

Mr McGinley, who witnessed five nuclear blasts on Christmas Island in the 1950s, said: "We believe previous studies by the Government have been seriously flawed."

Dixons

LATEST DEALS ON PC SOFTWARE

GAMES SOFTWARE

RED ALERT COUNTERSTRIKE
The No.1 selling game of strategic warfare, is now bigger and better! Experience the thrill of commanding a global armed force on 16 extra missions, with this Red Alert add-on disk.
NEW
£19.99 Dixons Deal

CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER 2
Ever dreamed of being Terry Venables? Well, here's your opportunity to manage a real football team of top players. Think you can do it?
£24.99 Dixons Deal
EXCLUSIVE DEAL FREE EUROPEAN LEAGUES

THEME HOSPITAL
Could you build, manage and maintain a successful city hospital, with staff to hire and fire, drugs to research and endless wacky emergencies to deal with? Here's your chance to immerse yourself in medical madness!
£29.99 Dixons Deal

HOME OFFICE SOFTWARE

QUICKEN 6 DELUXE
Enhance your financial management skills with UK's number 1 selling personal and small business finance software.
FEATURES INCLUDE:
- New Multimedia tutorials.
- Quicken Home Inventory.
- QuickInvoice — keep control of money owed.

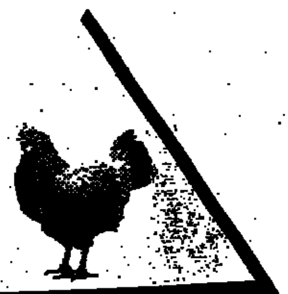
PLUS
Free Quick Tax 97 — the easiest way to complete your personal tax return.
PC CD-ROM
£59.99 Dixons Deal

VOICETYPE SIMPLY SPEAKING
Turn spoken word into text with the latest technology in voice dictation software.
FEATURES INCLUDE:
- Recognition of individual pronunciation.
- Pre-programmed vocabulary of 30,000 words.
- Typing speed of 70-100 words per minute.
- Comes with noise-canceling microphone, with ear-piece speaker.

LARGER STORES
Please check that your PC is compatible before purchase.
Was £99.99.
£89.99 Dixons Deal
SAVE £10

FIRST AID 97
If you've ever had a PC crash or a problem with Windows, then you need First Aid 97. It automatically fixes Windows problems and ensures that you don't lose all your hard work.
PC CD-ROM
£34.99 Dixons Deal
HALF PRICE WHEN BOUGHT WITH ANY MULTIMEDIA PC
ALSO AVAILABLE: FIRST AID 97 DELUXE £49.99

Dixons
There's a great deal going on



Why did the chicken cross the information superhighway? To get to the other site.

Two words: "the internet". They're almost enough to make you stop reading, aren't they? But Yell, the internet site of Yellow Pages, is receiving 1.5* million page views a month. Translated, this means that hundreds of thousands of people regularly look at the site. And you don't think they all need a plumber, do you?

"Pass the Yellow Pages®, dear, I want to hear the latest Spice Girls single."
Strange? Yes. Impossible? Unfortunately not.
Good old Yellow Pages is now available on the internet.
To find good new Electronic Yellow Pages,® go to the Yell® website at yell.co.uk

Yell is just like Yellow Pages. If Yellow Pages had moving pictures, clucking sounds and photos of Jarvis Cocker.

There you'll find such things as travel guides, a Film Finder™ and a collection of gardening tips. There's also a list of the UK's most popular sites: The Spice Girls site, with extracts from their album, is at number 4 this week.

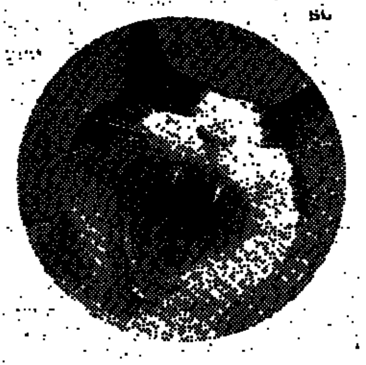
And of course, Yell is the home of Electronic Yellow Pages. This is the most comprehensive on-line source of information about businesses in the country.

It includes the names and details of over 1.6 million companies. Which is a lot.

The headings will all be familiar to you from Yellow Pages: plumbers (8,280 of them), driving schools (6,911), restaurants (18,510), doctors (13,293) and of course, chick sexers (1).

You can search for them by business type and by area. Some of the entries will also have photographs of their staff and their products and even a map† showing where you can find them.

Should you be spending too much time indoors in front of that computer of yours, Green Fingers™ will tell you what you should be doing in the garden instead. (In case you're wondering, it's about time you started on the herb patch.)

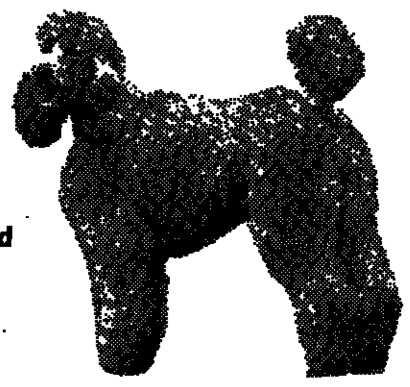


A cat won't go through the post. But you can always e-mail a photo of it.

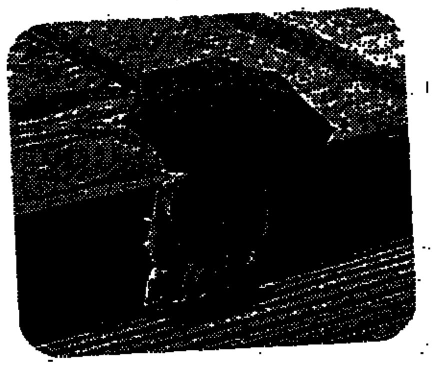
The Film Finder includes links to Hollywood sites and fully comprehensive listings and reviews. So it can tell you where a particular film is on, what time it starts and not to bother seeing it.

If you want to find out what's new on the web, take a look at Yellow Web's list of the Top 30 UK sites.

This week, the BBC Weather Site is at number 28, Capital Radio's site (with links to Pulp's home page) is at number 20 and UK Laughter Links rises eleven places to number 15 (now you don't have to remember jokes, just where to find them).



Electronic Yellow Pages has 887 dog and cat groomers.



To visit a site, just click on their name and you'll be transferred straight out of Yell and into the new site.

Transferred? Out of Yell? Really, how could you, after all we've done for you?

Yell™ The website of Yellow Pages. http://www.yell.co.uk

® Registered trade mark of British Telecommunications plc in the United Kingdom. ™ Trade mark of British Telecommunications plc. *Yell site statistics. † Maps are owned and licensed by Etak, Inc. Copyright © Etak, Inc. 1984-1997. All Rights Reserved. The Ordnance Survey data contained in this product is Crown Copyright material and Ordnance Survey is the copyright owner of the Ordnance Survey data.

Currys

SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £300 ON A RANGE OF TELEVISIONS

PLUS FREE CHANNEL CROSSING TO FRANCE FOR CAR + 4 PEOPLE ON SELECTED SAILINGS WITH P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES

When you buy any cooker or refrigeration product over £360

Maximum 72 hour return trip from 1st May – 30th November 1997. Subject to availability. Applicants must be 18 or over. Purchases must be made by 31st May 1997. Ask in-store for full details.

INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £100

WHEN PURCHASED WITH A MASTERCARE COVERPLAN SERVICE AGREEMENT

TELEVISIONS SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £300

TOSHIBA 33" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext
- 80cm visible screen size.
- Cabinet stand with built-in centre speaker.

Model 3357. In-store Price £1499.
SAVE £100 VOUCHER PRICE £1399

THOMSON 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext. 51cm visible screen size. Model 55MK48. Was ~~£369.99~~. Was ~~£329.99~~. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £269.99

SANYO 25" Fastext TV with Remote Control. 59cm visible screen size. Model 5956. Was £349.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £299.99

PANASONIC 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext. 51cm visible screen size. Model 21MD1. In-store Price £379.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £329.99

HOME ENTERTAINMENT BEST BUY 96
SONY 25" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext. 59cm visible screen size. Model 25F2. Was £699.99. In-store Price £679.99. BUY NOW PAY 9 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £649.99

PHILIPS 28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound and Fastext. 66cm visible screen size. Model 28W662A. Was £1099. In-store Price £899. BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £300 VOUCHER PRICE £799

TOSHIBA 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext
- 66cm visible screen size.
- Auto set up for easy installation. Model 2857.

In-store Price £899. BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £849

TOP BRAND VIDEOS SAVE UP TO £50

PANASONIC 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC. Auto set-up facility. On-screen display. Model NVHD605B. Was £399.99. SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £369.99

MATSUI Long Play Video with Remote Control. Long play increases recording time of tapes. Model VXA1100. Was £149.99. In-store Price £139.99. SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £129.99

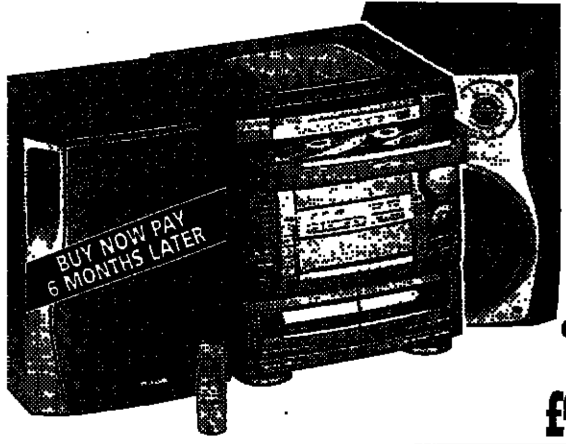
SANYO Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC
- Auto set-up facility.
- Tape library system.

Model VHR287E. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ NEW CURRYS PRICE £199.99

GRUNDIG 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus. VideoPlus for easy programming. Model GV411. Was ~~£289.99~~. Was £259.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £239.99

TOSHIBA 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with Satellite Control VideoPlus and PDC. Model V825. Was ~~£379.99~~. Was £359.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £349.99

CD HI-FI SYSTEMS SAVE UP TO £50



AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi
- Multiplay – plays up to 3 CDs.
- 200 watts (RMS) per channel.

Model NSX-F9. NEW CURRYS PRICE £449.99

MATSUI Ultra-Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- Digital tuner with presets.
- Remote control.

Model MCH750. Was ~~£99.99~~. Was £89.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £79.99

JVC CD Mini Hi-Fi
- Multiplay – plays up to 3 CDs.
- 40 watts (RMS) per channel.

Model D2T. Was £249.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £229.99

WHAT HI-FI HIGHLY RECOMMENDED 1996 AWARDS
SONY CD Mini Hi-Fi. Multiplay – plays up to 3 CDs. Model MHC881. Was ~~£379.99~~. Was £349.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £329.99

TECHNICS Dolby Pro-Logic CD Mini Hi-Fi
- 4-piece component set.
- 40 watts (RMS) per channel.

Model SCCH570. Was £499.99. In-store Price £479.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £449.99

FREE PRINTER WITH ALL THESE PCs

FREE OVER £1000 SOFTWARE Ask for details. SAVE £100

FREE COLOUR PRINTER with all MMX™ and P150 Packard Bell PCs Model CANON BJC4200. In-store Price £194.99.

PACKARD BELL P166MHz MMX™ Technology Multimedia PC with 15" Monitor
- 16Mb RAM/2Gb hard drive.
- 8-speed CD-ROM drive.

Model 9018. Was £1799. BUY NOW PAY 9 MONTHS LATER. CURRYS PRICE £1699

PACKARD BELL P166MHz MMX™ Technology Multimedia PC with 15" Monitor
- 16Mb RAM/2Gb hard drive.
- 8-speed CD-ROM drive.
- 33.6k modem.

Model 9019. BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER. CURRYS PRICE £1899

PACKARD BELL Intel® P150MHz Multimedia PC with 33.6k Modem
- 16Mb RAM.
- 2Gb hard drive.
- 8-speed CD-ROM drive.

Model 9007EN. BUY NOW PAY 9 MONTHS LATER. CURRYS PRICE £1499

PRICE CRASH ON SONY CAMCORDERS SAVE UP TO £100

SONY 8mm Camcorder with 10x Optical Zoom Lens
- 0.6 lux low light performance for superb filming in low light.
- Auto-exposure modes.

Model TR330. Was ~~£549.99~~. Was ~~£529.99~~. Was £499.99. FREE AIR MILES AWARDS† Ask for details. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £449.99

PRICE CRASH!
SONY Hi-8 Camcorder with 30x Digital Zoom. Model TR810. Was £799.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ HALF PRICE ACCESSORY KIT. Ask for details. FREE AIR MILES AWARDS† Ask for details. SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £749.99

PRICE CRASH! WHILE STOCKS LAST

SERVIS 1000 Spin Autowasher
- Quick wash.
- Half load option.

Model M301W. Was ~~£329.99~~. Was £269.99. SAVE £80 CURRYS PRICE £249.99

INDESIT Full Size Dishwasher. 6 programmes. Model D4000. Was ~~£269.99~~. Was £249.99. SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £229.99

CREDA EXCLUSIVE 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker
- Double oven.
- Solid plate hob.
- Red spot plates.
- Analogue clock.

Model 49134. Was ~~£499.99~~. Was £369.99. SAVE £170 CURRYS PRICE £329.99

LEC 8.3 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- Automatic defrost.
- 4-star freezer rating.
- Fast freeze.

Model K216. Was £369.99. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £269.99

PRICE CRASH!
CARLTON 2-Slice Toaster with Traditional Chrome Finish. Model C300. Was £14.99. In-store Price £8.99. SAVE £7 VOUCHER PRICE £7.99

PRICE CRASH!
CARLTON Steam/Spray Iron. Variable steam setting. Model SP703. In-store Price £12.99. SAVE £3 VOUCHER PRICE £9.99

PRICE CRASH!
MATSUI 0.6 cu.ft. Compact Microwave. 800 watts power output. Model M161M. Was £74.99. SAVE £5 CURRYS PRICE £69.99

PRICE CRASH!
FRIGIDAIRE 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge
- Push button defrost.
- CFC free.

Model R1526. Was £199.99. SAVE £70 CURRYS PRICE £129.99

PRICE CRASH!
MATSUI 1.0 cu.ft. Microwave with Convection Oven and Grill. 850 watts power output. Model 199TC. Was £229.99. SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £179.99

PRICE CRASH!
CANDY 8.9 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer. Model CCM25/12. Was ~~£249.99~~. Was £269.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £249.99

PRICE CRASH!
PARKINSON COWAN 50cm Eye-Level Gas Cooker. Model CLASSIC. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £249.99

PRICE CRASH!
BETACOM Answer Machine
- Remote access facility.
- Message counter.

Model SOLO. In-store Price £24.99. SAVE £5 VOUCHER PRICE £19.99

PRICE CRASH!
MATSUI Personal CD Player
- Includes adaptor.
- Bass boost.

Model CD104. Was £69.99. SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £39.99

PRICE CRASH!
MATSUI Portable CD System. AM/FM radio. Model CD66. Was ~~£59.99~~. Was £54.99. SAVE £10 CURRYS PRICE £49.99

PRICE CRASH!
MATSUI 14" Remote Control TV with Teletext. 34cm visible screen size. Model 140T. Was £149.99. SAVE £10 CURRYS PRICE £139.99

PRICE CRASH!
MATSUI 4-Head Long-Play Video with VideoPlus. Model VP9501. Was £189.99. Was £179.99. HURRY – LIMITED STOCKS. SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £159.99

PRICE CRASH!
MATSUI 20" Remote Control TV
- 49cm visible screen size.
- Infra-red remote control.

Model 200R. Was £199.99. SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £169.99

GRUNDIG 25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext. 59cm visible screen size. Model ST63725. Was ~~£499.99~~. Was £429.99. SAVE £140 CURRYS PRICE £359.99

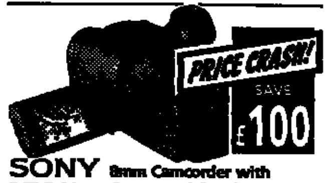
AIWA Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC
- VideoPlus and PDC for easy and reliable programming.
- Auto set-up for easy installation.

Model HVGX500. Was ~~£229.99~~. Was £199.99. SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £179.99

FREE COLOUR PRINTER with all MMX™ and P150 Packard Bell PCs Model CANON BJC4200. In-store Price £194.99

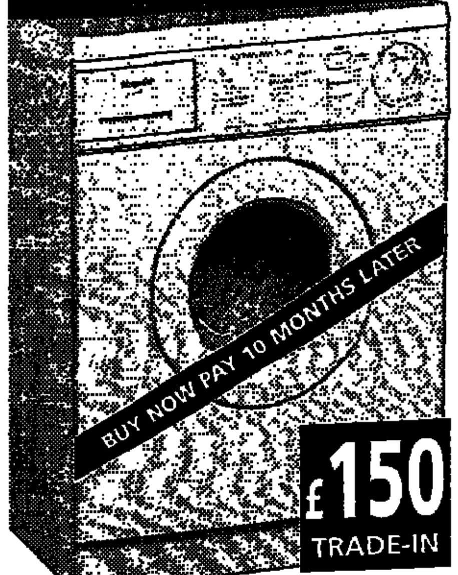
PACKARD BELL P150MHz Multimedia PC
- 150MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
- 16Mb RAM.
- 1.6Gb hard disk.
- 8-speed CD-ROM drive.

Model 9016. BUY NOW PAY 9 MONTHS LATER. FREE OVER £1000 Software Ask for details. CURRYS PRICE £1299



SONY 8mm Camcorder with 2.5" Fold-out Screen and Speaker. Model TRV11. Was £699.99. Was £649.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ HALF PRICE ACCESSORY KIT AVAILABLE Ask for details. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £599.99

LAUNDRY SAVE UP TO £150



HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'Aquarius' Autowasher
- Aquarius wash system.
- 'No heat' economy wash.
- Super rinse.

Model WM25P. Price Excluding Trade-in £499.99.
£150 TRADE-IN. TRADE-IN PRICE £349.99

CREDA 1000 Spin 'Ecowash' Autowasher
- Economy option.
- 27 programmes

Model 17086. Was £399.99. In-store Price £299.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £120 VOUCHER PRICE £279.99

ZANUSSI 1000 Spin Autowasher
- Variable wash time.
- Also available in Almond.

Model FL1085. Was £499.99. BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £120 CURRYS PRICE £379.99

HOTPOINT 1100 Spin 'Aquarius' Autowasher. Available in Polar White, Linen or Mercury. Model WM63. Was £499.99. BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £399.99

BOSCH 1000 Spin Ecological Autowasher. Delay start timer. Model WFF2000GB. Was £629.99. BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £130 CURRYS PRICE £499.99

HOOVER 1100 Spin 'Soft Wave' Washer Dryer. Available in White or Almond. Model A8754/A8756. Was £549.99. BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £150 CURRYS PRICE £399.99

WHITE KNIGHT 7lb Tumble Dryer
- 2 heat settings.
- Final cool tumble.

Model 311. Was £139.99. In-store Price £109.99. SAVE £40 VOUCHER PRICE £99.99

DISHWASHERS SAVE UP TO £120

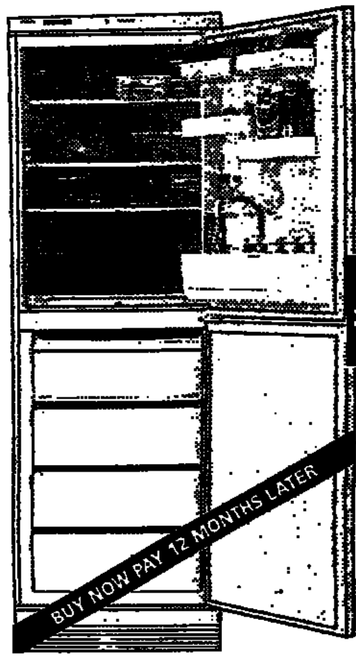
FREE ANTLER TRAVEL BAG With all DISHWASHERS OVER £305. Ask in-store for details.

BOSCH Full Size Ecological Dishwasher
- 6 programmes.
- Very quiet operation.
- Takes 12 place settings.
- Height adjustable basket.

Model SMS6012. Was £519.99. SAVE £120 CURRYS PRICE £399.99

HOTPOINT Full Size 'Aquarius' Dishwasher. Model DF23P. Was £449.99. BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £349.99

REFRIGERATION SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £110



HOTPOINT 12.0 cu.ft. Mistral Plus Frost Free Fridge Freezer
- Deep door fridge – holds 6 packs.
- Dual thermostat.
- Tiltable shelves.
- Temperature display.

Model 8596P/A. Price Excluding Trade-in £719.99.
£120 TRADE-IN. TRADE-IN PRICE £599.99

Also available in Charcoal, Tasmin Green, Flame Red and Azure Blue priced £649.99 (inc Trade-in). Ask in-store for details.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Fridge. Large salad bin. Adjustable thermostat. Model R106. Was £199.99. SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £149.99

FRIGIDAIRE 7.5 cu.ft. Chest Freezer
- 4-star freezer rating.
- 2 storage baskets.

Model FC756. In-store Price £299.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £100 VOUCHER PRICE £199.99

CANDY 9.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer. 5.7 cu.ft. fridge. Model CCM28/12G. Was £399.99. BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £299.99

HOTPOINT 9.3 cu.ft. Larder Fridge. Automatic defrost. Model RL83X. Price Excluding Trade-in £449.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. £120 TRADE-IN. TRADE-IN PRICE £329.99

COOKERS SAVE UP TO £300

STOVES EXCLUSIVE 50cm Slot-in Gas Cooker. Finished in Brass and Racing Green
- Separate oven and grill.
- Fully sealed hotplate.
- Also available in Blue and Red.
- Push button ignition.

Model NEWHOME 502GS. Was £549.99. In-store Price £449.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £110 VOUCHER PRICE £439.99

NEW WORLD 50cm Slot-in Gas Cooker
- Separate oven and grill.
- Lid with safety cut-out.

Model ESTEEM 3000. Was ~~£479.99~~. Was £379.99. BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £150 CURRYS PRICE £329.99

LEISURE 110cm Slot-in Double Width Gas Cooker. Double oven. Model RANGEMASTER 110. Was ~~£1799~~. Was £1599. Delivery direct from manufacturer. BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER. SAVE £300 CURRYS PRICE £1499

CLEANERS SAVE UP TO £60

DYSON Antarctica Solo Dual Cyclone Upright Cleaner in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Powerful 1300 watt motor. Model DC01 ANTARCTICA SOLO. RECOMMENDED BY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING. CURRYS PRICE £199.99

ELECTROLUX Cylinder Cleaner
- 1300 watt variable motor.
- 4 litre double life dustbag.

Model TANGO 1661. Was £129.99. SAVE £60 CURRYS PRICE £69.99

Where a saving is claimed against a 'was' price the product has been offered for sale by Currys at the higher price for at least 18 consecutive days prior to the promotion

†AIR MILES AWARDS are available on selected Sony Models – by redemption. AIR MILES is a Trade Mark of AIR MILES INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS N.V. Offer ends 31/5/97.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this ad to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Head Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 30th April. THIS VOUCHER PRICE SHOWN IS THE PRICE YOU PAY.

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 12 MONTHS LATER

Pay a 20% deposit then nothing for the deferred period indicated with the product. You can then repay the loan in full, interest free, or by monthly instalments when interest will be charged at an APR of 29.5% from the date of the agreement. Example based on 12 months Buy Now Pay Later. Cash Price £399.99. 20% deposit £80.00. Either pay the loan amount of £319.99 within 12 months or 36 monthly payments by direct debit of £16.74. Total amount payable £682.64.

APR 29.5%

◆ EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

HOW IT WORKS

Account is interest free if repaid in full before (or with) 6th, 9th or 12th monthly repayment according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works' showcard in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £499.99.

EITHER 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION: 20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £13.53. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment. Total amount payable £499.99. APR 0%.

OR

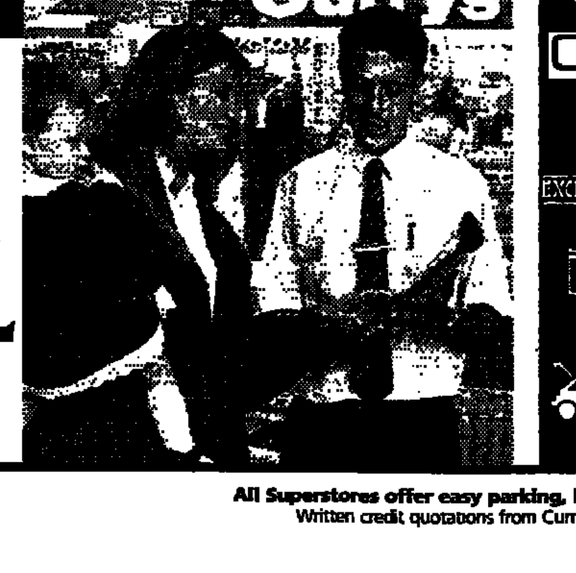
SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS: 20% deposit of £99.99. 48 monthly repayments of £13.53. Total amount payable £749.43.

APR 29.5%

For loan values £1000 and over minimum deposit is 10%. Subject to status when you open a Currys Premier Advantage Account. Written credit quotations available on request from: Dept FOAK, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over in Northern Ireland)

Currys

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORE



PREMIER SERVICE

OVER 550 HOME APPLIANCES AVAILABLE WITH 2-DAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED

EXTRA VALUE EXCLUSIVE MODELS
For exceptional value, look for the wide selection of superb models and offers exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWS
Look out for the products independently tested and reviewed.

TAKE IT HOME NOW
Most items are in stock ready to take away at once. We will be happy to carry your purchase to your car.

2 DAY DELIVERY MONDAY TO FRIDAY
Choose AM/PM. Plus professional installation service. Ask for details, prices and availability.

COMBINED DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION
Combined delivery and installation on all free-standing gas and electric cookers (excludes Northern Ireland and selected Scottish stores). Installation by CORGI registered engineers.

SAME DAY IN-HOME SERVICING
Available for most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.

AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOP
Expert service available 7 days a week (same day wherever possible). All repairs guaranteed 3 months.

24-HOUR PC PLUS HOTLINE – 0891 516516
Phone our dedicated software line 7 days a week. Calls cost 50p per minute.

IN-STORE PC UPGRADE SERVICE
Make the most of Windows 95. RAM upgrade chips from £27.99. Installation only £18. Ask for details.

EASY WAYS TO PAY
Currys Premier Advantage Account offers Instant Credit and lets you take advantage of any credit offer in-store. See in-store for details.

CURRYS DIRECT
For direct, doorstep delivery in 5 working days Freephone 0500 304304 or fax 01442 888145 (9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat). Delivery charges from £3.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

NEW MASTERCARE *always there...* Coverplan

INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £100

Up to 5 years service support provided by expert engineers when you purchase a Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement. PLUS Interest Free Option when purchased with any product over £100. Ask in-store for details.

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

Only Currys bring you all this

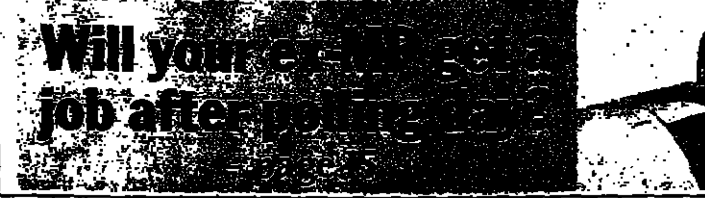
All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0181-200 0200 for details of your nearest store.
Written credit quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

ELECTION 97

POLL DAY -5

What do you get if you cross Del Boy and Casanova?

Matthew Parris – page 13



Will your ex-MP get a job after polling day?

The flying canvasser

Campaigning in Britain's most beautiful seat

Ben Macintyre – page 16

Parties cannot rouse moor's walking dead

In the wastes of Yorkshire the quick and the dead tell **Damian Whitworth** how little they care about politics

THE barman of the Lion Inn scratched his stubble and thought hard. "Politics, you say? No I don't think we've had anyone come in here wanting to talk about that."

If there is a wind of political change blowing through the country it has not reached Blakey Ridge. Here there is only a stiff easterly that licks along the tops of the North York Moors and howls around one of the country's most remote public houses.

The house is the only dwelling on the 40-mile stretch of moorland between Osmotherley and Ravenscar which constitutes the Lyke Wake Walk. This is a barren land, but there are still people up there and they have a story to tell about the state of this nation as it prepares to go to the polls. They do not expect the political parties to stop to listen.

True, most people up here don't have anything to say. They are dead. Bronze Age tribes living in the valleys would carry their dead to the highest point of the moors where the bodies were burnt and buried in grave mounds.

Throughout the year their most frequent visitors are sheep and farmers. But around now scouts are arriving from all over Britain ahead of the legions that will trek this way over the summer. Every year thousands, sometimes up to 10,000, try to complete the Lyke Wake Walk, which follows the ancient burial mounds from Osmotherley in the west to Ravenscar in the east. Aficonados sing medieval songs about the watchings over (wakes) of corpses (lykes).

My background research was undertaken over pints of the local brew, Black Sheep, in the Three Tuns in Osmotherley. Paul Sherwood, a local JP and Anxious Almoner of the Lyke Wake Club alarmed me with tales of the ordeal ahead, but also gave me a flavour of local politics. He was popular with fellow drinkers for standing as an independent in the local council elections that take place on May 1 and are regarded by many as rather more important than the other poll that day.

The consensus of the villagers who eyed me with bemusement was that only the hardiest and most experienced walkers tried the entire crossing alone, without the back-up and the rest stations that are set up on special walk days. Relieved to find an excuse, I devised a scheme that allowed me to skip sections of the route in *The Times* photographer's car. "And anyway," I told Diana Farrow, my landlady at the Moon House bed and breakfast, herself a veteran of the walk. "I wouldn't have time to complete the walk if I kept stopping to talk to people." She gave me a funny look. "You might meet Old Nick up there, but I don't know who else."

It looked like a lonely hike. So, just outside the village, at the stone that marks the start of the walk, it was a cause of minor celebration to find I was not alone.

Alan Sanderson, an extraordinarily sprightly 83-year-old, overtook me at a terrifying speed with his dog, Pup. "We'll all be very pleased when May 2 comes. Some people might be politically minded, but I'm not. Not at my age. You might find a few people up there, but they'll have gone up there to get out of the way of the election," he said as I struggled to keep up. Sadly he was not going my way, though he looked like he could make it to Ravenscar and back before breakfast.

Much of the early part of the walk follows the Cleveland Way, but as the path crossed the first burial mound the only company was a party of mountain bikers making heavy going on a lower path.

Then, half a dozen miles in, a lone walker came in the opposite direction. Les Jackson, 59, was enjoying the leisure that came with early retirement from ICI. "At least I have time for walking now. It's nice to be away from it all up here. Every time the doorbell rings it is somebody canvassing. I'm not bothered about any party. They are all going to be the same."

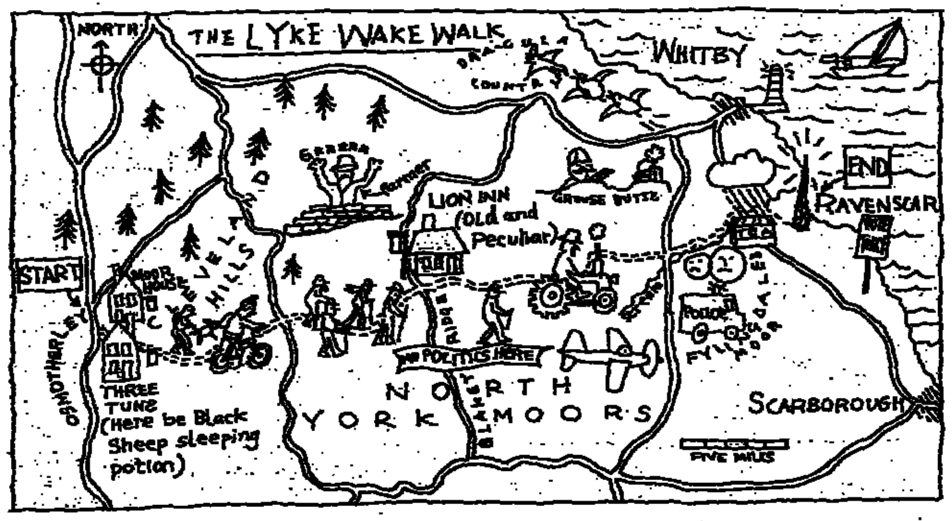
All the same. How this one theme echoed across the valleys from such different people along this walk. A little further on and a gang of four cheerful men from unemployment-ravaged Yarm rounded the corner. "We're all old Labour," Ray Seymour, 40, said. "But none of the parties are going to make this country any better." But despite disenchantment with Tony Blair's new Labour, there was at least an intention to vote out the present Government. Middlesbrough FC as much as the lack of jobs was the reason. "John Major and Maggie Thatcher were in Yarm and they caused such a bottleneck we didn't get to the game until half-time," Mr Seymour said, referring to the Coca Cola Final against Leicester City. "So we were done twice by the blues."

Just before the path rose to its most hostile stretches I came across a man boiling with opinions. David Rutter, 44, whose 250-acre farm is now mostly devoted to sheep after the BSE scare, was angry but could not see a party that would appease him. He was mending a drystone wall torn down by thieves looking to sell the stones for garden paths and chaining a gate ripped off its hinges by bikers who have churned up his fields. "Politicians are all the same. When they are in they just look after themselves. Farmers don't have any clout any more."

The path crosses through beautiful but bleak moorland, soggy underfoot and hard going against the wind up onto Blakey Ridge and the Lion Inn. "The walkers are starting to come through and we are like an oasis in the desert," said David Crossland, 26, the barman and son of the landlord as he pulled me a pint of Theakston's Old Peculier, a beer with a name unusually appropriate to the way I was feeling.

He said the absence of political debate was not down to an absence of regulars, as I had expected. "We do have regulars. Mostly farmers who come up from the villages. But it's just that we're not the sort who are interested in politics. You might think farmers would be concerned because of Europe and everything. But they are not, not up here."

Our reporter sets off on the Lyke Wake Walk. Photographs: MICHAEL POWELL



David Rutter, a lively sheep farmer with a boiling anger no party can appease, has his place on our map

Blokeish Clarke breathes life into dismal campaign

WHAT a splendid fellow is Kenneth Clarke, though part of his splendidness lies in the fact that he is more a bloke than a fellow. He was clearly up early enough yesterday to read in *The Times* my complaint that this has been a bloodless, dismal campaign. By the time he arrived at the BBC's *Election Call* studio, Mr Clarke had decided to do something about it.

The result was the classiest and most original broadcasting performance of the campaign. Mr Clarke knows we are fed up with this election, so yesterday he embarked on fighting the next one. Delete Chancellor Clarke, defender of the Tory record. Insert candidate Clarke, waving a nomination paper for the battle to succeed John Major.

Not that Chancellor Clarke was absent, any more than candidate Clarke was overtly present. Indeed, he is by far the most compelling defender of the staus quo in Mr Major's team.

But this was Mr Clarke speaking for himself, the man of the Centre, the unity candidate. He invoked one-nation Toryism on at least two occasions, he cited his "hero", the late Iain Macleod (a former Tory Chancellor) and he rubbished the Eurosceptics.

The alleged coming of VAT on food was "one of the great myths of the Eurosceptics". Mr Clarke has met Paul Sykes, the millionaire who is funding Tory candidates opposed to the single currency. Mr Sykes has "this complete fixation that the end of the nation state is nigh".

Mr Clarke even went so far as to suggest the likelihood of Mr Blair becoming Prime Minister on Thursday, or what is one to make of the statement that "Tony Blair might lose". He could have said that Tony Blair might win, a form of words that easily conveys a far-fetched and remote possibility.

Thelma Lawson, a caller from Pewsey in Wiltshire, was so impressed with Mr Clarke that she said: "Under a Labour government led by Mr Blair there'll be a seat for you somewhere."

RADIO WATCH

PETER BARNARD

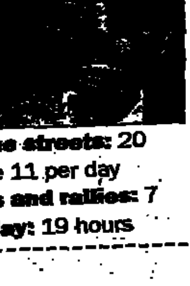
Somehow, though, Mr Clarke does not quite fit the Blairite image. You feel that he is too much his own man to be one of Mr Blair's.

Mr Clarke answers questions over the airwaves as if they have been asked over a pint in a pub. He drops no clangers, but he has the disarming ability to sound as if he will drop one at any moment. Much more impressive, he does not sound as if he would care very much if he did.

No doubt the impression is calculated, but it does not sound as if it has been machined on the lathes of Central Office. For this relief, much thanks.

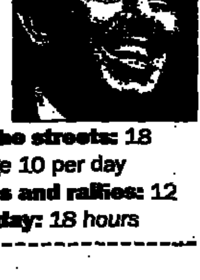
Temporary EMU, page 14

The Stamina Factor



John Major:
Age: 54
Freshness rating: ★★
Miles travelled this week: 2,290
Hours spent campaigning on the streets: 20
Interviews: Average 11 per day
Press conferences and rallies: 7
Average working day: 19 hours

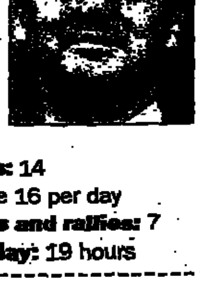
Worst moment:
Ad libbed speech to Scottish Tories which veered into the surreal: "If I went to invade Mars, they (Labour) will invade Mars. From their point of view, Mars Today, Cadbury Tomorrow and Bournville the day after. Heaven alone knows where they will go"



Tony Blair:
Age: 43
Freshness rating: ★★★★
Miles travelled this week: 900
Hours spent campaigning on the streets: 18
Interviews: Average 10 per day
Press conferences and rallies: 12
Average working day: 18 hours

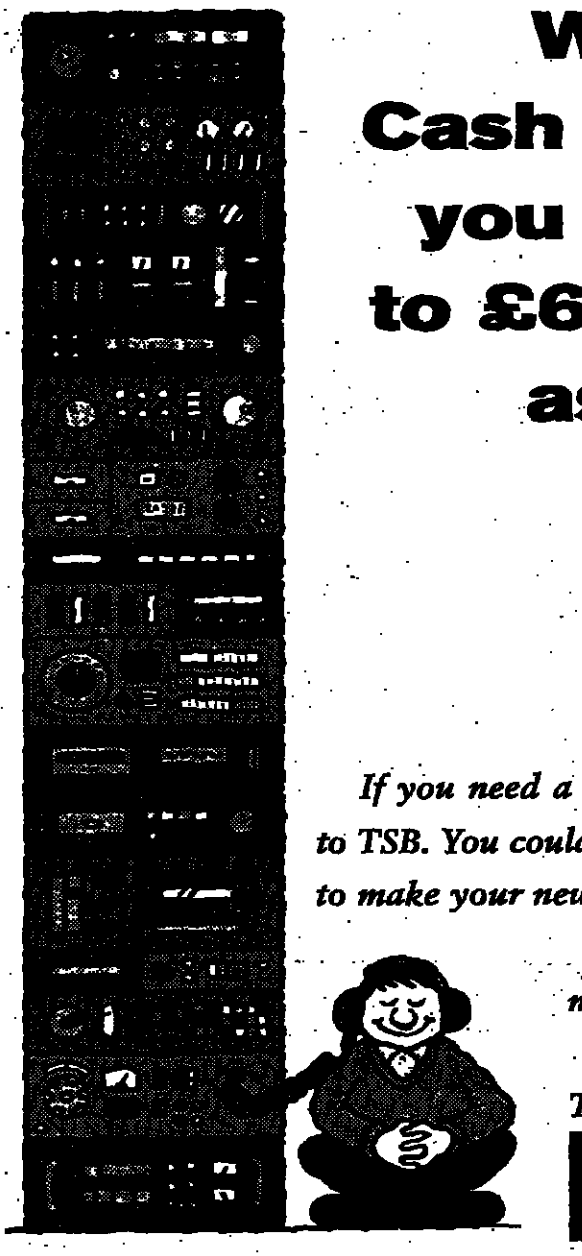
Worst moment:
ICM poll showing Labour lead over the Tories down to five points

★ Star rating out of 5 provided by Times correspondents travelling with the leaders



Paddy Ashdown:
Age: 56
Freshness rating: ★★★
Miles travelled this week: 2,700
Hours spent campaigning on streets/in schools: 14
Interviews: Average 16 per day
Press conferences and rallies: 7
Average working day: 19 hours

Worst moment:
He struggled to defend the party's radical credentials as Dimbleby claimed the manifesto was a pale imitation of 1992



With a TSB Cash Gift Mortgage you could get up to £6,000 to spend as you like.

If you need a mortgage, be totally sensible and come to TSB. You could get a cash gift of up to £6,000, enough to make your new home look like a million dollars.

Call TSB PhoneBank to find out more or to get a free quotation.

Alternatively, you can call into a TSB branch.

Call free quoting ref. TIF1.
0500 758 000

Mortgages

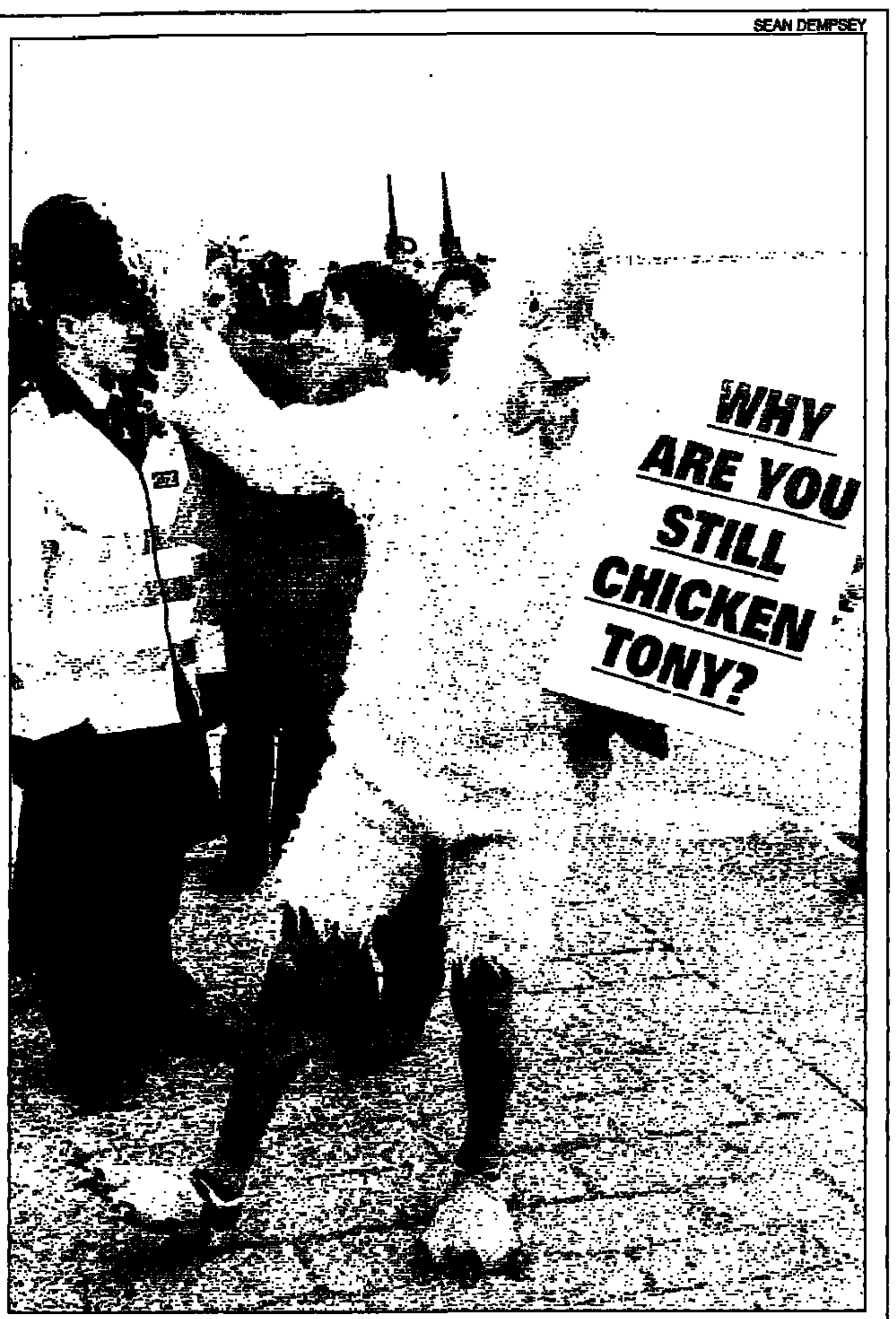
TSB We want you to say YES

Typical example: an existing TSB mortgage customer who is moving and taking out a new £40,000 mortgage on a property priced at £80,000. 300 monthly interest payments are £214.48 at TSBs standard variable rate, currently 7.25% (APR 7.5%). The total gross amount payable is £113,022. It is assumed that TSB Property Plus, TSB MortgageSure, TSB Homebuyers Plan and a Cash Gift of £1,200 have been taken. Typical fees included are legal fees £110 and a valuation fee £90. Tax relief at 15% on £30,000 is assumed. The monthly endowment premium is £61.46. Available subject to status on Endowment Repayment or pension basis. Minimum loan to qualify for Cash Gift is £15,001. TSB Homebuyers Plan is a unit linked qualifying endowment policy (please remember the value of units can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed). Full details of the TSB Homebuyers Plan are available from TSB Life Limited, Charlton Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. The Cash Gift must be repaid if within the first five years the mortgage is redeemed or converted to another TSB mortgage. If the loan is partly redeemed, the Cash Gift must be repaid on a proportionate basis. Assignment/assignation of a suitable life policy may be required by the Bank as security. A TSB cheque account is required. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. All loans subject to status. Not available in the Channel Islands. Written quotations are available on request by calling 0500 758 000. Calls may be recorded and monitored. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc are representatives of the TSB Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority only for TSB life insurance, pensions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice or recommendations relate only to the investments of the TSB Marketing Group. TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales. Number: 1089268. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number: 95237.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Ill-fated Tory chicken grilled by police

By James Landale


SEAN DEMPSEY
WHY ARE YOU STILL CHICKEN TONY?

The chicken at Dover. He was taken away by police and bundled into a car

TONY BLAIR visited Kent yesterday to meet victims of crime but was confronted by a victim of tough police action — the ill-fated Tory chicken.

The Labour leader's trip to Dover was interrupted by the latest appearance of the Tory fowl which was given a hands-on example of how Mr Blair intends to get tough on crime.

The chicken, which has not been seen since appearing in a kilt in Edinburgh last week, was marched off by police after he tried to disrupt Mr Blair's visit to the port to discuss smuggling with customs officials. Earlier, Mr Blair met some victims of crime in Folkestone.

Brandishing a placard saying, "Are you still chicken, Mr Blair?", the fowl and his Tory minder somehow managed to get into the heavily guarded quayside as Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, disembarked after a short boat trip. Labour officials and press officers tried in vain to push the chicken away until harbour police arrived on the scene. "Please go away, Mr Chicken," one of the officials cried.

The chicken was bundled into a car by the police, one of whom said: "He should have dressed as a duck because then we could have seen if he could swim."

The chicken, which is attempting to highlight Mr Blair's refusal to agree to a television debate with John Major, was grilled briefly by police before being released outside the harbour gates. A police spokeswoman said the chicken had got into the port by pretending to be a member of the media. "He was not arrested or charged," she said. "A report will be submitted to the Chief Officer of Police to determine possible futher action."

The port, which is owned by the Harbour Board, is private property and the chicken could have broken tresspass laws. A Tory spokesman said the police had been called to "rescue" the chicken from the Labour officials who wanted to throw him into the sea.

The incident came after Mr Blair unveiled plans for a flagship crime Bill in Labour's first Queen's Speech if the party wins office. The Crime and Disorder Bill will include plans to crackdown on juvenile crime, nuisance neighbours, racial violence and drink and drug-related crime.

The focus will be a reform of the youth justice system with a new fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders. Other pledges include a new "final warning" to replace cautioning for young people, reform of the *doli incapax* law so that children, aged 10 to 13, can be considered able to differentiate between right and wrong, and a new National Youth Justice Board.

Special forms of injunctions — known as Community Safety Orders — will be set up to allow police and local authorities to restrain particular individuals involved in anti-social behaviour. Professional witnesses, such as undercover police, will also be used to help avoid witness intimidation in disputes among neighbours.

Labour also plans to create a new offence to cover racial harassment and racially motivated violence. To curb alcohol-related crime, Labour wants to tighten licensing laws and introduce stricter pub exclusion orders. They also want city centre landlords to use glasses made of toughened glass to reduce injuries in fights where glasses are used as weapons.

The Bill will include plans for a curfew for children under ten who are allowed to roam the streets at night. A new Parental Responsibility Order will force parents to accept guidance and counselling to help deal with their problem children. New laws forcing serious drug-addicted offenders to undergo treatment and random testing will also be included.

THE MERCURY PEP

Windf ll shares

Don't let the taxman take a bite

The best way to protect your windfall building society and life company shares from the taxman is to shelter them in a Personal Equity Plan.

Mercury offers one of the most competitive PEPs, with no initial charge and a low, fixed annual fee of just £15 plus VAT.* Our PEP is also one of the most flexible – you can hold any number of windfall issues for as long as you like, or you can switch them into a wide range of funds with well-established performance records.

For your free information pack, call us now, return the coupon or contact your financial adviser.

☎ Freephone 0800 882 884

To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Investment Services Ltd, FREEPOST KE4930, London EC4B 4DQ. Please send me details of the Mercury Windfall PEP.
Ref TMWS 18/97

Surname First name Title
Address
Postcode

MERCURY
ASSET MANAGEMENT

*Investors who only hold windfall shares in their PEP (with no other Mercury Investment) will be charged a fee of 1% plus VAT on the termination of their PEP or transfer to another PEP Manager. ■ The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management plc, which is regulated by IMRO. ■ This advertisement is issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ■ Remember that the value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount you invest. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. ■ The tax treatment of PEPs may be changed by future legislation. ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

Huge cash blow to Tory pension plans

Conservative privatisation scheme may hit tax cuts. **Jill Sherman** reports

THE Tory plans to privatise the state pension ran into trouble yesterday when the party admitted that there could be billions of pounds of unforeseen start-up costs. Senior Tory strategists even conceded that tax cuts might be jeopardised as a result.

As Labour's attacks forced the Tories to flesh out the details, it also emerged that people aged up to 30, rather than in their early twenties as previously estimated, might be included.

Labour is telling pensioners that their basic state pension is not safe with the Tories. That is untrue.The changes will not affect anyone now aged 60 or over. But the Tories are still vague about who would be included in the scheme, allowing Labour to run with its scare stories. Yesterday they said that the scheme would mainly be for those entering the workforce, aged between 16 and 22, but one spindoctor said he hoped those aged 30 to 40 would be included.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary said that the scheme would be aimed at the early twenties, but it was possible that those up to 25 could be included if the Chancellor had enough money, and if the plan proved popular.

Extending the scheme to those aged 30 to 40 would bring two problems: they cost more in the short term and they would have to be given rebates to compensate for their contributions to the basic state pension made before they go onto the scheme.

The Labour election pamphlet promises pension cover from cradle to grave

John Major says the new pension may pay out £175 a week, compared to the basic state pension of £65. He suggested at yesterday's press conference that some measures might have to be taken to phase in the more generous sum, to avoid huge differences in payouts between the two schemes. However, Tory strategists and social security ministers appeared unaware of what the prime minister was talking about. Later a party source said Mr Major meant that if was affordable there could be top ups for those left on the basic pension.

One of Labour's most credible charges has been that the Basis Pension Plus scheme has not been properly costed.

Until now the Tories have argued that the £7 billion a year cost of the scheme would be paid for by stopping women drawing state pensions until they are 65, not 60 as at present.

They say the equalisation of state pension age, due to take effect from 2010, would save £15 billion.This leaves a seven or eight year funding hole as the scheme may start in 2002 or 2003. Originally, when John Major announced the Basic Pension Plus it was due to start in 2001.

The other source of funding, spoken of for the first time yesterday, is to make changes to make Serps — the State Earning Related Pensions Scheme — less generous.

At present Serps, the additonal state pension, is calculated on the highest year of earnings. In future it will be calculated on average earnings. Sources say this will build up to savings of £7 billion a year by 2030. Money will start coming in in 2000 but the Tories now admit this will not cover the start up costs.

"There will be start up costs," admitted one party strategist. "And people may have to forgo tax cuts." However, he could not put a figure on what those costs would be.

He suggested that progress towards a basic 20p tax rate could still be made in a first parliament but this would be unlikely to happen in a second term, when resources would be stretched.

Looking for bright idea to meet the challenge of a grey future

Anne Ashworth and **Caroline Merrell** examine the background and the criticisms of the Tory plan that has come to the forefront of the election campaign

THE Basic Pension Plus scheme, the Conservative answer to the problems of a "greying" population and the generally inadequate level of provision for retirement among the population, was unveiled in early March.

Under Basic Pension Plus, both the basic and the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme (Serps) would be abolished. They would be replaced by personal pensions, managed by life insurance companies. Tax relief on contributions would be abolished.

The scheme was based on the Chilean model of pension provision, introduced under the regime of General Pinochet, the military dictator, as a replacement for the country's near-bankrupt pension scheme.

Like the Chilean project, Basic Pension Plus will be compulsory, obliging everyone to provide for their retirement. This would be a revolution for a nation where pension saving has tended to be an almost optional activity.

At present, the state pensions of those in retirement are paid for by those in work. Department of Social Security statistics show that today there are five working people to support every pensioner. By 2030, five working people will have to pay the pensions of three people.

However, some influential observers, including the Institute of Financial Studies, believe there is no real funding problem for the basic pension. The Institute points out that the overall tax take will increase as more people earn higher amounts.

This will more than compensate for the larger number of retired people. The basic pension will also be extremely low as a proportion of average earnings in a few decades time.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON BASIC PENSION PLUS

☐ **How will Basic Pension Plus work?**
For those about to start work, and those in their early twenties, the basic pension and Serps will be replaced by Basic Pension Plus. These individuals will get a £9-a-week National Insurance rebate to be invested as a replacement for the basic pension. They will also get a rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings liable to NI, which will be invested as a Serps substitute. They will be able to add their own contributions to these rebates. Employers can also contribute.

The government contributions alone should provide a minimum pension of £175 a week. The Conservatives claim that the value of pension produced by investing £9 a week will not be less than the value of the basic pension.

☐ **How much will the new pension cost?**
Basic Pension Plus is intended to save money. The initial cost will be £160 million. This will rise rapidly to £7 billion as more people join the workforce and receive NI rebates. Eventually there should be an overall saving of £40 billion because no basic state pension or Serps would need to be paid.

☐ **If those in work are paying for their own pensions, who will pay the pensions of those retiring?**
Abolishing tax relief on pension contributions should save £8 billion a year. To compensate for the loss of relief, the Tories have pledged that pensions when paid out will be tax-free up to an unspecified limit.

Another £8 billion will be needed to pay for those in retirement. This will come from increased tax revenues.

☐ **What is the principal criticism of the Basic Pension Plus proposals?**
The plans are said to depend too much on the life insurance industry whose past record in pension sales is lamentable. Life insurers have compensated only a few of the 500,000 victims of the personal pension scandals of the late Eighties and early Nineties.

☐ **How did the Conservatives react to these criticisms?**
Ministers swiftly reacted to these criticisms. Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, rebuked Sir Andrew Large, chief executive of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, over the slow progress of the review into personal pension mis-selling. Meanwhile, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, warned life insurance companies that they would not be permitted to be involved in the Basic Pension Plus scheme if they had not settled their compensation liabilities. There will be a list of approved insurance company suppliers.

☐ **What were the other criticisms?**
There was some dismay over the promise of a £175-a-week tax-free pension for a contribution of £9 a week, plus 5 per cent of National Insurance. This was considered to be based on over-optimistic predictions for investment returns. NPI, the insurance company and one of the leading names in pensions commented: "Our preliminary analysis of the projections suggests that a 4 per cent real rate of return will be required. This could be quite a challenging target."

The removal of tax relief on contributions has also been the subject of comment. Tax relief not only encourages individuals to contribute to pensions, it makes it possible for them to afford to contribute more of their income. Although the Conservatives have promised that pensions will be tax-free when paid, it seems impossible to guarantee this pledge as future governments might move to change the tax rules, deducting income tax from pensions when paid.

☐ **How does Basic Pension Plus compare with the Labour proposals?**
Labour proposals for the future of pensions are far more vague. Labour does not envisage having to scrap the basic pension, which is currently worth £62.45 a week. Like the Conservatives, Labour will continue to link rises in the basic pension to inflation, which means that the basic pension as a proportion of average earnings will rapidly decrease.

Labour does not intend to abolish Serps straightaway, although it does agree that the system is unworkable in its present form.

Labour has been exploring the options for more private provision of pensions, but is wary of giving a large role in this process to the insurance companies.. Instead it believes in a second tier of "stakeholder" pension, which could be run by the unions or other affinity groups. The 4.5 per cent of National Insurance contributions that go towards the funding of Serps pension will go towards this pension, and Serps will gradually be wound down.

☐ **What is the verdict of the life insurance industry?**
Standard Life, one of the biggest names in the business, believes that both the Labour proposals and the Conservative plans lack the element of compulsion necessary to ensure that individuals make sufficient provision for their old age. A spokesman said: "As far as life insurance companies are concerned, the Labour plans would only work if the schemes proved to be very popular as otherwise our margins would be too low.

"The Conservatives will have to work hard to persuade young people who are making contributions out of taxed income that any future government would guarantee their final pension fund was tax-free."

Branson to endorse plan for utility windfall tax

RICHARD Branson will today become one of the first mainstream British businessmen to endorse Labour's windfall tax (writes Andrew Pierce). The entrepreneur will stop short of endorsing the Labour Party but will reiterate his belief that his Virgin Group should be independent of party politics.

Mr Branson, an admirer of the changes to Labour, will endorse two more of the party's policies in a speech alongside Mr Blair. He will back proposals to divert some of the profits from the mid-week National Lottery to the health service and schools. Mr Branson proposed an identical deal to Margaret Thatcher in June 1988 when he headed a group of businessman who offered to run a profits-for-charity lottery.

Mr Branson will also praise Labour's competition policy at a photo-call with Mr Blair at Euston station.

Branson: Blair admirer

C4 refuses BNP slot

CHANNEL 4 has refused to show a party election broadcast by the British National Party claiming it violates an Independent Television Commission code. Other channels showed the broadcast.

Earlier this week the station asked the BNP to change the programme as it showed people who had not consented to be in the broadcast. Channel 4 said the new version still contravened an ITC programme code but the BNP refused more changes.

هكذا من الاعلام

A cross between Che Guevara and Paddington Bear would spawn Labour's bearded and cuddly Frank Dobson, while that between Del Boy of *Only Fools and Horses* and Casanova would produce a cocky Tory, Steve Norris

Capital takes centre stage in theatre of the absurd

At least this election could spell the death of the press conference and the battle bus, **Matthew Parris** writes

WHAT do you get if you cross Che Guevara with Paddington Bear? The answer is Frank Dobson, Labour's bearded, cuddly, grunting revolutionary — and Opposition spokesman for London. What do you get if you cross Del Boy and Casanova? The answer is Steve Norris, the Tories' quick-thinking, cocky, folksy Lothario — and former Minister for Transport in London.

Both were on display yesterday in a variety of staged minuets which could prove early auditions for the office of elected Mayor of London.

Like so much about this election, the shadow-boxing raised a presentiment of things to come. We witnessed yesterday the death of the campaign press conference, and of the campaign battle bus.

The death of the press conference occurred at 10.07am, beside the Thames. Frank Dobson was to "launch" Labour's manifesto for London. This is six pages long, two pages consisting entirely of colour photographs, the rest a thin stream of abstract nouns meandering between pictures of Tony Blair and happy people.

Mr Dobson arrived, beaming, accompanied by Glenda Jackson, scowling. But almost nobody else did. There were only a handful from the press — the two photographers being more interested in the possibility that the lone seal now apparently at large in the Thames might be sighted. Sadly, it was not. Party spokesmen are two-a-penny. Seals are news.

Mr Dobson's retinue was larger than his audience, and consisted of a dozen or so new Labour clones from Millbank Tower. These people wear dark suits, never smile, walk around in pairs, and increasingly resemble Mormons. Some were there to assist Mr Dobson, some to gag him, some to report on him, and the remainder to spy on each other.

His team then created a photo-opportunity which would have gladdened the hearts of Ionesco or Magritte. They made him stand, grinning, the Thames and St Paul's his backdrop, holding up a card with a photograph of the Thames and St Paul's on it. The moment and the scene — a combination of absurdity, vacuity and cynicism — encapsulated in a single frame the campaign of 1997.

Questions followed. Mr Dobson was asked about Labour's plan for a London government. The seal would have been more forthcoming. Mr Dobson said he did not know when this would reach Parliament, but it would be "as soon as practicable". Asked to define the phrase, he suggested, "in due course".

Then there would be a referendum. It was not necessary to describe the plan, because "people can vote for or against it". Voting for new Labour seems to resemble voting for one of those touch-tone telephones: "for an elected mayor, press 7; for a Welsh assembly, press 5 . . . " He refused to rule out — "I can't envisage it" — running for the office of Mayor.

All Mr Dobson's non-replies were accompanied by his genial chuckle-grunt. The journalists gave up and went away. His minders, whose mission is to stop Mr Dobson emitting any noise but laughter, looked relieved. I decided to seek out the most likely Tory candidate for London's mayoralty.

Steve Norris was ensconced in a London Weekend Television studio — whither Mr Dobson also hastened. After being offered 60 seconds to describe Tory plans for the capital — "Oh Jesus, I've hardly started" — Mr Norris spent 20 minutes raging at a mostly hostile audience, LWT having thrown at him such calmly penetrating questioners as a woman whose son had been killed on the Underground, and a man who wanted him to stop the spread of BSE, *E. coli*, TB, CJD and accidents at work.

If there is one spectacle more contemptible than our politicians answering questions, it is our citizens asking them. The British voter appears obsessive, shifty, self-interested and incapable of marshalling an argument.

I missed the battle bus. Apparently this was to take the Prime Minister to Ilford, and did, but no journalists bothered to go. They say Mr Blair's battle buses have become an equally pointless bore. Mr Ashdown's was pointless from the start. If this wretched election campaign achieves nothing more than to kill the press conference and the battle bus, it will not all have been in vain.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shephard rebuked

Head teachers launched a fierce attack on Conservative plans for a grammar school in every town when Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, addressed their conference in Torquay yesterday. Bruce Douglas, vice-president of the Secondary Heads Association, told Mrs Shephard in a vote of thanks: "We believe that the indiscriminate and haphazard extension of selection by individual schools supposedly embedded in a local and national setting is educationally counterproductive, organisationally chaotic, resource inefficient and morally dubious."

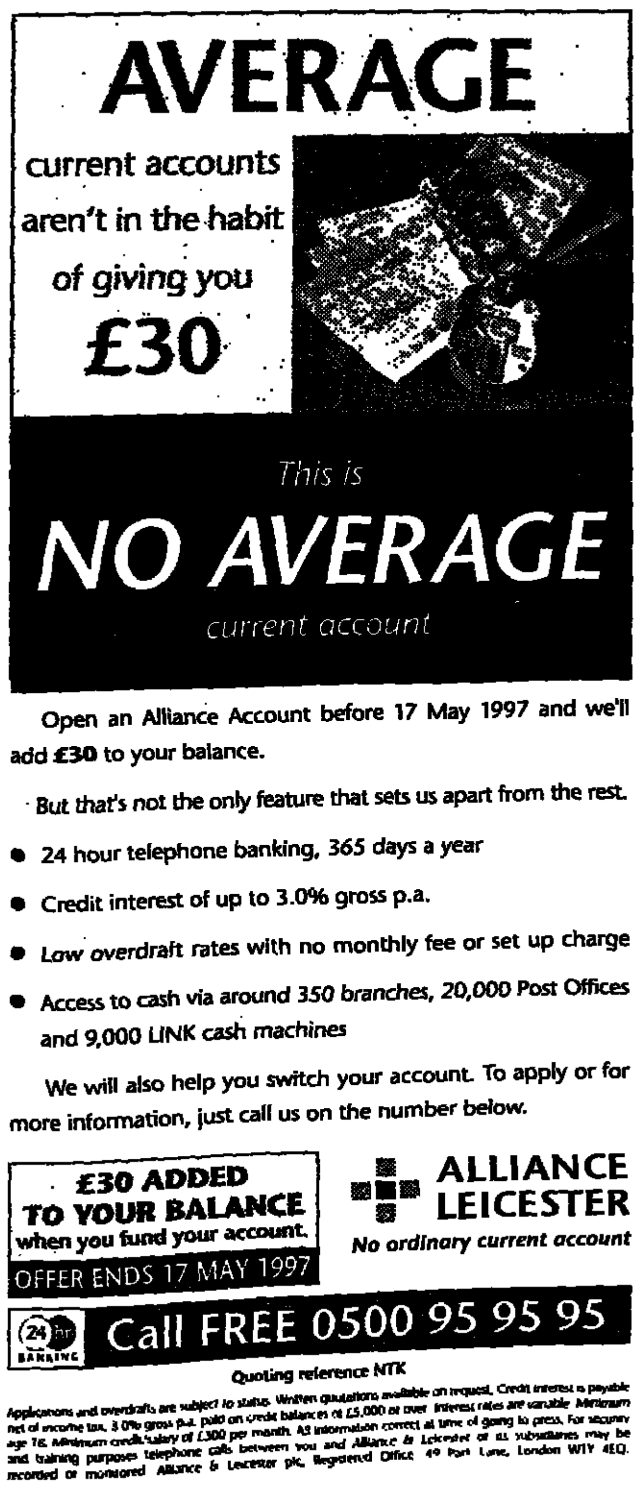
Sinn Fein ban upheld

The BBC in Northern Ireland was right to refuse to show a Sinn Fein party election broadcast containing potentially libellous film clips, a Belfast High Court judge ruled yesterday.

One of the clips showed David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, speaking on a mobile telephone at last summer's Drumcree gathering, immediately followed by scenes of police batoning people in a nationalist area. The BBC said that it suggested that Mr Trimble was directly responsible for the violence and was therefore defamatory.

Puppet advert cleared

The Advertising Standards Authority said it would not be investigating complaints about the Conservative newspaper advertisement portraying a tiny Tony Blair sitting like a puppet on the knee of a giant Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, as it did not consider that it contravened codes of practice. More than 50 complaints were received.


AVERAGE
current accounts aren't in the habit of giving you £30

This is
NO AVERAGE
current account

Open an Alliance Account before 17 May 1997 and we'll add **£30** to your balance.

But that's not the only feature that sets us apart from the rest.

- 24 hour telephone banking, 365 days a year
- Credit interest of up to 3.0% gross p.a.
- Low overdraft rates with no monthly fee or set up charge
- Access to cash via around 350 branches, 20,000 Post Offices and 9,000 LINK cash machines

We will also help you switch your account. To apply or for more information, just call us on the number below.

£30 ADDED TO YOUR BALANCE when you fund your account.
OFFER ENDS 17 MAY 1997

ALLIANCE LEICESTER
No ordinary current account

24hr BANKING Call FREE 0500 95 95 95

Quoting reference NTK

Applications and overdrafts are subject to status. Written quotations available on request. Credit interest is payable net of income tax. 3.0% gross p.a. paid on credit balances of £5,000 or over. Interest rates are variable. Minimum age 18. Minimum credit/salary of £300 per month. All information correct at time of going to press. For security and training purposes telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc, Registered Office 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ.

Low, low prices on the things you need NOW

KEY season PRICE

"Mowing your lawn will take a lot less effort with this lightweight mower."
MICHAEL MARTIN
Sales Assistant, B&Q COLCHESTER

Flymo Micro Lite 28 Electric Hover Mower 4.7kg, 11ins cutting width, 1000 watts, plastic blade, safety lock off button and 12m cable. £48.99
ONLY 4.7kg

Crown Vinyl Matt or Silk Emulsion Pure Brilliant White. 2.5 litres. Was £7.89 £4.49 each
SAVE UP TO £5
Crown Vinyl Matt or Silk Emulsion Pure Brilliant White. 10 litres. Was £20.99 £15.99 each
B&Q Vinyl Matt or Silk Emulsion Pure Brilliant White. 10 litres. Was £15.49 £13.99 each
Cuprinol TimberCare Autumn Red, Rustic Brown, Rich Oak, Autumn Gold or Woodland Green. 9 litres. Was £10.99 £9.99 each

Qualcast Quadtrak Electric Rotary Mower 12ins cutting width, 625 watts, 3 cutting heights and 12m cable. £79
Powerbreaker RCD Adaptor J02 £14.19

FREE PAINT
2.5 litres Crown Vinyl Matt or Silk Coloured Emulsion when you buy this Earlex Paint Roller
CAN BE USED WITH B&Q, CROWN & DULUX PAINTS
Earlex Autofeed Cordless Paint Roller PR9 9ins roller head, two speed flow control and takes water based paint. Requires 4 size D batteries (not included). £24.99
Crown Vinyl Matt or Silk Coloured Emulsion 2.5 Litres NORMAL B&Q PRICE £12.49 each
Available in over 20 colours

Classics Wallpaper by Crown Available in various designs and colourways. Was £7.99 £4.99 per roll
Co-ordinating Borders Was £4.99 £2.99 per roll
Florence Ceramic Wall Tiles Box of 27. Available in grey or peach. Plain, border or inset. 20cm x 15cm approx. £6.99 per box
Florida 42ins Ceiling Fan White effect blades with cane inset. 3 x 60W. Was £34.90 £29.99

Colonial Knotty Pine Internal Door 78ins x 30ins £21.99
FSC The wood in this product comes from well managed forests independently certified in accordance with rules of Forest Stewardship Council
Bench Drill CH10 1/4hp motor, 5 speed and 13mm chuck. Was £44.49 £39.99
Hilka 6in Bench Grinder 240 volts. Single phase, 370 watt, 3,000 rpm motor. Was £24.99 £22.99

Pagoda Garden Light Set Complete with 4 lights. 15m of cable and 12V plug-in transformer. Was £29.99 £24.99
Black & Decker Reflex Trim 'n' Edge Trimmer GL550C 25cm cutting width, 300W, auto feed line system and 12m cable. £34.99
SAVE PRECIOUS WATER
Flysu Premier Water Butt With tap and lid. 210 litres. Green. £22.99
Marley Rainwater Diverter and Seal Available in black, brown, grey and white. Was £8.99 £5.99

Wilkinson Sword Power Digging Spade and Fork Was £11.99 £9.99 each
B&Q Granular Lawn Feed, Weed & Mosskiller Contains MCPA, Mecoprop-P and Ferrous Sulphate. Treats up to 100sq.m. £5.99 Treats up to 240sq.m. £12.99
Grasshopper Triple Action Ready to use Spreader Feeds grass, kills weeds, controls moss. 4.5kg. Contains 2,4-D, Dicamba and Ferrous Sulphate. £6.99
Grasshopper Refill 4.5kg. £6.49
FREE £5 VOUCHER when you buy both the Grasshopper Spreader 4.5kg & 4.5kg refill. *See leaflet instore.
Read the label before you buy: Use Pesticides Safely

Find any of them for less locally & we'll refund DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE

TESCO Clubcard
EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Pick up a leaflet in store.
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm. Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm. Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900
Internet - http://www.diy.co.uk
Key Season Price products are clearly marked instore. If you find any for less locally we will refund double the difference. All we ask is that the lower price is generally available to any customer and that you call back within 14 days with your B&Q receipt. This excludes price comparisons made with B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, please phone to check before travelling. *Grasshopper offer - application form and proof of purchase is required. Allow 28 days for delivery

B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

Les Great escapes.

Disneyland Paris

from £71† per person (for family of four)

Le Touquet

from £73* per person

Châteaux

from £79* per person

Travel Only

from £79** mini break return (car and all passengers)

le Shuttle

Folkestone ←→ Calais

For reservations call

0990 35 35 35

or your travel agent.

Prices quoted are per person for one night stay. †Disneyland price based on two adults and two children sharing a room and one car and is valid from 19 May-21 June and 7-28 September 1997, Sunday-Thursday only, at Hotel Santa Fe. Accommodation is on a room only basis. *Prices are based on two adults sharing a twin or double room with private facilities and are valid from 1 April-10 July and 31 August-31 October 1997. **Super Saver mini break tickets must be purchased 7 days in advance and by 30 April 1997, valid for travel anytime in 1997. All holidays organised by Le Shuttle Holidays Ltd and are subject to availability.

Chancellor dismisses Eurosceptic fears

By Philip Webster, political editor, and Michael Dynes in Brussels

KENNETH CLARKE repudiated yesterday the 200-plus Tory candidates who have openly opposed Britain joining a single currency, and surprised Eurosceptics and Brussels alike by suggesting that such a move might not be irrevocable.

The European Commission categorically denied his claims that Britain would be free to pull out of the European single currency if it did not like the way the system worked.

The Chancellor, who has distanced himself from the Eurosceptic tone of the Tory election campaign, said that the Tory candidates who had openly opposed a single currency in their election addresses were "wrong".

Earlier this week, Mr Clarke said that the Prime Minister would be *bound to abide in government* by the wait-and-see policy set out in the Tory manifesto, despite the large-scale revolt against it by candidates.

Yesterday he provoked further consternation among Eurosceptics with a statement that European monetary union need not be irrevocable. His aides insisted that Mr Clarke was saying nothing new or startling — he was merely pointing out that a monetary union might collapse.

A central argument among the sceptics is that once Britain has gone into a single currency the decision could never be reversed.

Mr Clarke, appearing on the BBC's *Election Call*, which is broadcast simultaneously on BBC1 and Radio 4, said: "The intention of going into monetary union would be that *this is intended to be permanent* in the foreseeable future — that everybody would fix their interest rates together, that everybody would have the same currency. Once you've got into that, the idea would be that nobody would come out".

He added, however: "In fact, there is never a 'never' in politics." Previous attempts at monetary union had ended. "We were in monetary union with the Irish Republic for about 50 years. They pulled out of that in the 1970s. So these things can be disentangled. But no one should go into it believing it was anything other than a lasting situation."

Sir Teddy Taylor, the veteran Conservative Eurosceptic, openly disagreed with Mr Clarke. He said the move "would be irreversible. Once you have joined a single currency you hand over sovereignty for your gold reserves and monetary controls and you have no say over your economy."

Mr Clarke had defended the Tory candidates against a charge of "xenophobia". He said: "I don't think they're xenophobic. I don't think they all hate foreigners — I hope none of them hate foreigners. I think the candidates are wrong to say they are going to rule out membership of the single currency now.

"I don't think it's in British interests to make that decision now. I actually think we should continue to be very closely involved in all the discussions about it. It may be in our advantage, it may be to our disadvantage, but the right time to make that decision is later when we know more about it."

He was unimpressed by the newspaper advertisements placed by the pro-Conservative millionaire Paul Sykes, opposing the single currency. Mr Sykes has contributed money to Tory candidates who oppose a single currency.

☐ Fettes College, Tony Blair's old school, refused a request from Edinburgh Conservatives for Mr Clarke to hold a meeting there yesterday. The school explained that it was apolitical and did not want to show bias to one party, and that any party would have received the same response. The meeting, with Scottish businessmen, was held at a nearby college.

ROBIN MAYES

Major's gnome with a gun to its head

Tory 'snobs' back anti-Gorman rival

Michael Horsnell reports on civil war in Billericay

A REBELLION against the arch-Europhobe Teresa Gorman is gathering pace among disillusioned Conservatives in Billericay.

According to Mrs Gorman, the revolt has been launched against her and the working-class Tories she champions in the Essex commuter town by local "snobs". Amid a war of words, Brian Hughes is standing as a "Loyal Conservative" against the unrepentant Thatcherite whose curriculum vitae lists her as one of John Major's famous "bastards".

Mr Hughes, a local solicitor, who gave up paying his subscriptions to the local Conservative association at least two years ago, objects to her disloyalty to the Prime Minister over Europe — for which she lost the party whip for five months — and her support for John Redwood's challenge to his leadership.

His objection is compounded by Mrs Gorman's "chat show image", which he says has helped to turn Billericay into a laughing stock. Claiming yesterday that his intervention could lead to a "sensational" defeat for her after ten years in Parliament, his campaign has led to the defection of two big fish from the Gorman camp.

Peggy Marshall, a member of her campaign team, and formerly her election agent, has joined Mr Hughes as his election agent. Amid claims that the local association is in dissarray with a plunging membership, Lilian Greenfield, a prominent Essex county councillor from Billericay, has also defected to the Hughes camp with two other councillors.

Gorman: "He thinks I am not posh enough"

A one-nation Conservative who was appointed MBE in 1995 for services to the community, Mr Hughes, 61, has written to constituents saying: "It saddens me to know that, for a number of reasons, mention of the name Billericay usually evokes more laughter than respect."

He said: "Mrs Gorman is not popular here because in the view of many of her constituents she has contributed to the impression of disarray in the Conservative Party and they feel let down by her.

"She has a rough-and-ready approach to Europe which has lost Britain a lot of respect. We should be in there negotiating for the best we can get. We need a pragmatic approach, not a 'Stuff you, give us our ball back' attitude."

Mrs Gorman remains defiant about her image and her political standing. She said: "Mr Hughes thinks I am not posh enough to be the MP, that my appearance on the *Mrs Merton Show* is not what members of Parliament should do. [He] calls himself loyal, which is a joke. If he were loyal, he would endorse the adopted candidate."

Mrs Gorman was speaking at her 16th-century Grade 2 listed farmhouse in Orsett, over which she and her husband, Jim, were each fined £3,000 last year for making changes without listed building consent.

Two garden gnomes — one of John Major, the other of her beloved Baroness Thatcher — stand guard beside the front door where the porch that the couple built used to stand until the local authority ordered them to pull it down.

Thatcher's gnome in hectoring mode

School poll gives Blair victory but no majority

By David Charter, education correspondent

LABOUR romped home yesterday in a poll of school polls — but failed to win an overall majority. More than 250,000 schoolchildren gave Labour three times as many seats as the Conservatives, but it finished with 324 seats out of 659.

The other results were: Conservatives 113 seats, Liberal Democrats 92, Greens 11, Monster Raving Loony Party 8, Referendum 3. Scotland was stormed by the SNP, with 44 of the 72 seats. Labour won 27 of the Welsh 40 seats, with Plaid Cymru next on seven.

Peter Snow, the veteran commentator who analysed the figures using the latest BBC technology installed for the real thing, said: "We may well be getting a first impression of the likely patterns of voting in the 21st century."

But the 1992 schools' poll was a poor forecast of the real thing: Labour 236, Tories 190.

Renewing your home insurance in April or May and want to save money ?

If you are 50 or over call free !

0800 414 525

quoting reference TM4719

Lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

SAGA Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose

RIPPON BOSWELL & COMPANY

Established 1884 ~ International Auctioneers of Rare Oriental Carpets

South Kensington, London SW7 Tel.: 0171-589 4242 Fax: 0171-589 2592

MASTERPIECES FROM THE GANS-RUEDIN COLLECTION OF RARE ANTIQUE ORIENTAL CARPETS

The first-ever international release of items from the Private Collection of the late E. Gans-Ruedin the world-renowned author on Antique Oriental Carpets to be sold by order of the Heirs & Executors of his estate

MAJOR PUBLIC AUCTION

THIS SUNDAY 27th APRIL at 2.30 p.m.

Viewing on Day of Sale from 12 Noon

IN THE SENIOR COMMON ROOM

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

KENSINGTON GORE, LONDON SW7

(Jay Mews entrance, by The Albert Hall)

◆ Erwin Gans-Ruedin (1915-1993) is recognised as among the most influential authors in Oriental carpet literature. His many books include *The Splendour of Persian Carpets*, written to the personal commission of the Shah of Iran and the Empress Farah Pahlavi; *Indian Carpets*, commissioned by Indira Gandhi Prime Minister of India; and *Caucasian Carpets*, based on unique material acquired during the author's extensive travels in Russia.

◆ This first-ever international auction release of major items from his private collection comprises definitive old & antique Persian, Caucasian & Turkish items, the majority of which have been published in the works of Gans-Ruedin and will be well-known to collectors, particularly a group of definitive antique Kuba, Genje & Chayly specimens from *Caucasian Carpets*, and memorable Persian & Caucasian works illustrated in *Le Tapis de l'amateur*.

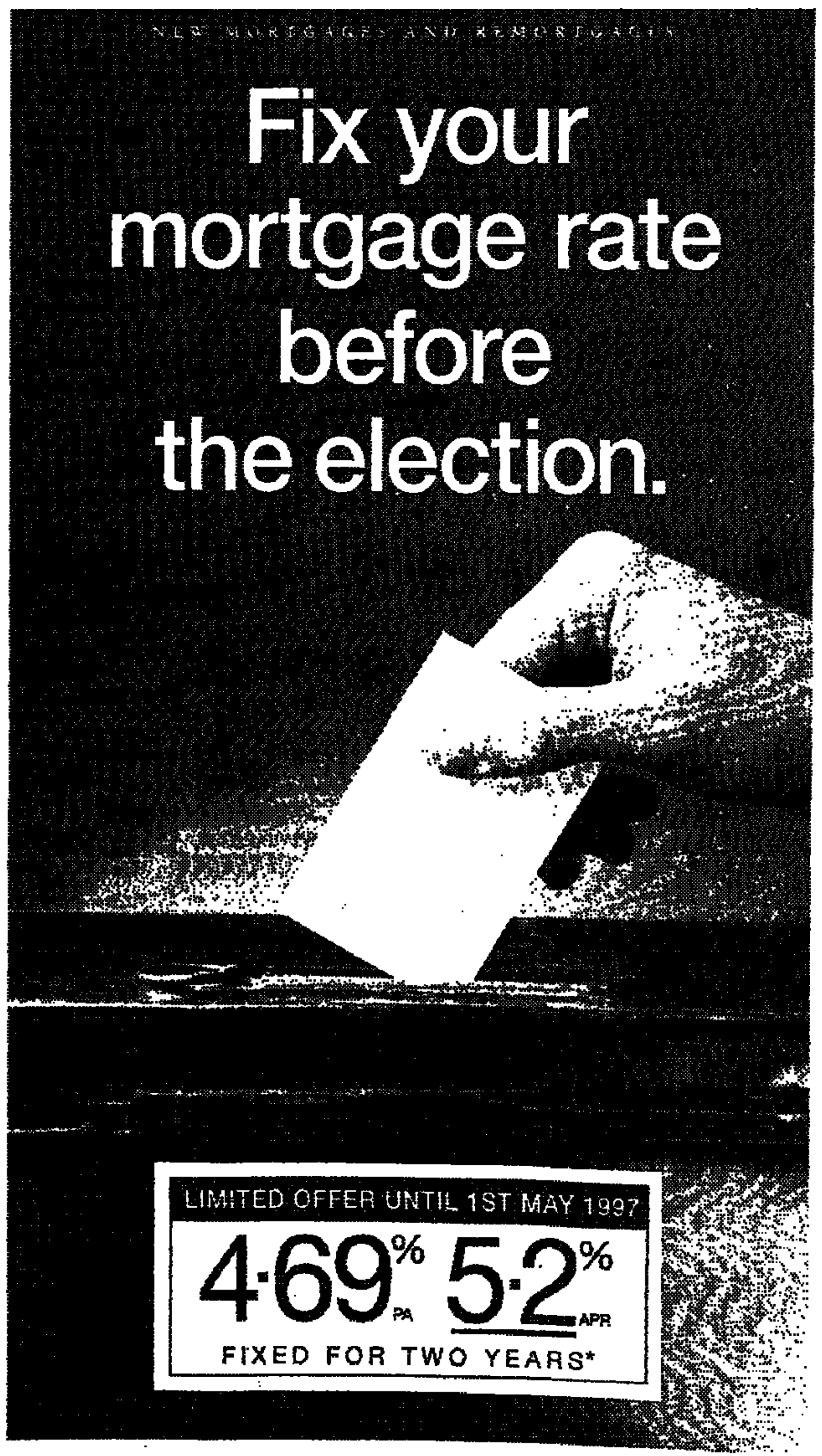
◆ Additional important entries from various leading international collectors include a magnificent signed Mashhad Amogli carpet, outstanding old & antique Persian & Anatolian silk examples, rare antique Qashqa'i, Afshar & Baluch collector's items, major 19th Century Bordjalou & Lori Pambak Kazak & other rare antique Caucasian carpets, magnificent large Qajar dynasty decorative carpets, exquisite antique Aubusson tapestries, precious Pahlavi master workshop specimens featuring unique signed examples by Serafian, Habibian etc., and other items of comparably elevated artistic and decorative merit and accomplishment.

FURTHER DETAILS AT VIEW & AUCTION ONLY

or visit our web site on the Internet at http://www.rippon-boswell.com/

NEW MORTGAGES AND REMORTGAGES

Fix your mortgage rate before the election.



LIMITED OFFER UNTIL 1ST MAY 1997

4·69% PA 5·2% APR

FIXED FOR TWO YEARS*

No one knows what will happen to interest rates after election day.

That's why our new Two Year Fixed Rate mortgage is so hard to beat. It removes all of the uncertainty about fluctuating interest rates.

And replaces it with the comfort of knowing exactly what you'll be paying until 1st June 1999.

This is strictly a Limited Offer. You must apply before close of business on 1st May 1997.

It's your choice.

- You can choose our lowest rate (the one shown opposite) if you take out our buildings and contents insurance.
- Alternatively, if you prefer to arrange your own insurance, we have other options available.

Ask for full details at your nearest Northern Rock branch.

Or call our Mortgage Hotline any time between 9am and 5pm weekdays, or between 10am and 3pm this weekend.

0800 591 500

NORTHERN ROCK

Hard to Beat

Northern Rock Building Society.
Principal Office: Northern Rock House,
Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL.

Branches throughout the UK
Please consult Yellow Pages.

*The interest rate charged on the Two Year Fixed Mortgage will be 4.69% (5.2% APR) until 1 June 1999. Example: An interest only mortgage of £50,000 over a 25 year term (300 monthly payments) completing on 1.6.1997, secured against a property being purchased for £67,000. 300 monthly mortgage payments net of tax £206.50. Total amount payable £109,449.24. Calculated to include an arrangement fee of £395. Valuation fee of £165. Solicitors' costs £146.88 (England & Wales). Supercover Special Insurance Premium £343.37 (District 1). Max. loan £150,000. Max loan to value for Home Purchase and Remortgage 95%. If the mortgage is repaid in full or in part within six years of completion an additional Product Early Repayment Charge of 5% of the amount repaid will be made. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. The 4.69% PA interest rate includes a 0.25% discount where Supercover Special buildings and contents insurance is taken out. This insurance must remain in force for the fixed rate period. In the event that the insurance is cancelled, the Society will remove the additional 0.25% insurance discount on the loan until 1.6.1999. APR is variable. Rates may vary. A written quotation can be obtained on request. Only available to persons 18 years of age or over. Subject to status. Subject to our current lending criteria. Northern Rock cannot advise its customers on their personal tax. If you do have any queries about the tax implications of our products, you should contact your local tax office. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purpose of making introductions to other Legal & General representatives for recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. *CR7

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Ex-MPs have good pay-offs but limited futures. **Andrew Pierce** asks headhunters to look at a few CVs

My last job? Actually, I was running the country

JOB *insecurity* may be an election issue for voters, but it is an *immediate worry to MPs* in marginal seats. Next Friday, a string of one-time ministerial high flyers and backbenchers could wake up to an uncertain future.

They may be too busy now to consider the consequences of defeat, so *The Times* asked two top City headhunters to examine the CVs of six Tories *and one Liberal Democrat*, and offer advice on their *prospects if they find them*selves making the switch from helping to *run* the country, *to* running for a job.

Alan Thomas, adviser at Jonathan Wren Search and Selection, and Richard Wall, managing partner of the executive search consultancy Heidrick Struggles, gave their ratings for a job market where former Tory MPs may face a harder time than the usual route into City boardrooms and quangos.

If the *opinion polls* are correct and Tony Blair forms the next government, there will be dozens looking for alternative employment. Well-known names such as Edwina Currie and *Michael Forsyth* are high on the risk list, and they would not find defeat as well-cushioned as former colleagues *who lost their seats* in elections when the Conservatives remained *in* government.

In the past, defeated Tories have been rescued by the Tory stranglehold on quangos, *health trusts*, and *corporate* boardrooms. Chris Patten, paid a tax-free salary as Governor of Hong Kong, is the *classic example of the party's* rescue operation for fallen *stars. Under a Labour* government, former Tory MPs can expect a *less sympathetic* hearing, and the politicisation of NHS *appointments will end*.

In City boardrooms, Opposition MPs *cannot claim* insights and contacts with the party in power.

However, defeated and retiring MPs *have one* consolation: their compensation package *would be the* envy *of* many of their former constituents. *The pay-off bill after this* election could be as high as £10 million.

Each loser will be given a resettlement package worth between £21,500 and £43,000, plus a pension for life, all calculated *on the basis* of the number of years they were at *the* Commons. In addition, they will receive a "winding up *allowance*" of *£15,554 to* sort out their their Parliamentary and constituency work.

MPs salaries were increased by 26 per cent *last* year, ensuring that the pay-*offs and pensions would* be paid at a far higher rate.

Many drift into well-paid obscurity or pressure groups. *Their* chances improve when they have a professional skill *or experience to fall back on*.

Many resume legal careers, *such as Humfrey Malins*, who lost Croydon North West and was appointed a recorder, and the fiery leftwinger Dave *Nellist, expelled from the Lab*our Party for his links with Militant, *who works for a* solicitors' firm in Coventry.

Rosie Barnes, the *SDP* stalwart who refused to join the *Liberal Democrats and the* lost her seat for her pains, is *now running the health chari*ty WellBeing.

Elizabeth Peacock, 59, MP for Batley and Spen since 1983, majority 845, 15th on Labour target list. Salary: £43,000. Former life assurance consultant.
Mr Thomas advises: a career representing trade associations' interests at Whitehall." Salary: £30,000.
Prospects: 5 out of 10.
Mr Wall advises: given her role chairing the House of Commons Motor Club, we could see her as business development director with Bernie Ecclestone's future Formula One plc.

Michael Forsyth, 42, Scottish Secretary, MP for Stirling since 1983, majority 236, sixth on the marginal list. Three children. Salary £103,000. Once ran own PR firm.
Mr Thomas advises: a great future in lobbying Civil Service to push inward investment to Scotland rather than other UK regions. Salary: £70,000. Prospects: 7.
Mr Wall advises: set up outplacement agency for friends and colleagues in the Tory Party in Scotland who might be out of work. Salary range: good potential.

Dr Ian Twinn, 47, MP for Edmonton since 1983, majority 593, 10th on marginal list. Salary £43,000. Two children. Former senior lecturer in planning at South Bank Polytechnic.
Mr Thomas advises: maybe he could slot into the training market. Salary: £30,000. Prospects: 4-5.
Mr Wall advises: his CV shows an interest in planning, transport, Cyprus and Greece — maybe he could spearhead efforts to extradite Asil Nadir. Salary prospects: limited.

Malcolm Bruce, 52, Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon since 1983, top of Tory target list after boundary changes. Former buyer for Boots, joint publisher of Aberdeen Petroleum Publishing.
Mr Thomas advises: develop interests in the publishing field. Salary: £60,000 to £70,000. Prospects: 7.
Mr Wall advises: with his interests in marketing and energy, could be put forward as replacement for Bob Hoskins in commercials. It would be a limited run. Salary prospects: limited.

Tony Marlow, 56, MP for Northampton North since 1979, majority 4,067, 47th on target list. Salary: £43,000. Former captain in the Royal Engineers, commercial manager and management consultant. Keen gardener.
Mr Thomas advises: might be too set in his ways to return to management. Might appeal to local companies because of contacts. Salary: £40,000. Prospects: 5.
Mr Wall advises: follow the advice of Voltaire's *Candide*, and cultivate his garden. *Salary prospects: very low*.

Alastair Burt, 41, Social Security Minister, MP for Bury North since 1983, majority 4,764, 54th on target list. Salary £74,000. Three children. Solicitor. Member of Commons football team and marathon runner.
Mr Thomas advises: could advise football, health and golf clubs joining the stock exchange. Salary: £30,000. Prospects: 6.
Mr Wall advises: could be international marketing executive with sports promotions company. Salary prospects: unlimited.

Edwina Currie, 50, ex-Health Minister, MP for Derbyshire South since 1983, majority 1,947, 20th on marginal list. Two children. Salary: £43,000. Former lecturer in economics, and novelist.
Mr Thomas advises : terrific prospects as broadcaster and writer. Salary: £100,000 plus. Prospects: 8.
Mr Wall advises: a replacement for Martin Bell, who *could be moving into a full-time political career*. Could rival *Kate Adie as a top war correspondent*. Salary range: *extremely lucrative*.

ELECTION TRAIL

SATURDAY: Conservatives: John Major in Huntingdon for constituency work and a walkabout. **Labour:** John Prescott in East Anglia, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, George Robertson and Donald Dewar in Stirling, Clare Short in Birmingham. **Liberal Democrats:** Paddy Ashdown in north Wiltshire, Salisbury and Winchester.

SUNDAY: Conservatives: No details. **Labour:** Tony Blair in the Midlands, John Prescott visiting Eltham and Gravesham, Keith Vaz in Leeds, Clare Short in the Wrekin. **Liberal Democrats:** Paddy Ashdown in London visiting a book *centre* and public meeting with Simon Hughes at an east London school.

On screen: Paddy Ashdown and Robin Cook on *The Sunday Programme*, GMTV 7am; Tony Blair on *Breakfast with Frost*, BBC1 8.30am; Sir James Goldsmith, Alex Salmond, Steven Dorrell, Alan Beith and Alistair Darling on *Sunday with Adam Boulton*, Sky 10am; John Major on *Dimbleby*, ITV, 11.20am and *The World This Weekend*, BBC R4 1pm; *Michael Heseltine*, John Prescott and Alan Beith *On The Record*, BBC1 12.30pm; Kenneth Clarke, Gordon Brown and Alan Beith on *The Power and the People*, C4 8pm.

UP TO 41 MINS OF FREE * CALLS EVERY MONTH
& WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE
NOKIA 1611 £9.99
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE AND IN-CAR ADAPTOR WORTH £55 inc. VAT
FREE £30 INTRODUCTORY VOUCHER†
FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP FOR 1 YEAR
FREE LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY
FREE 14-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS
VODAFONE
CELLPHONES DIRECT TARIFF
CONNECTION CHARGE £35.00
MONTHLY RENTAL £17.50
PEAK RATE CALLS UK WIDE 40p per min
OFF PEAK CALLS 12p per min
ONE SECOND BILLING
PRICE PLEDGE Cellphones Direct WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN
◆ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time /110 hrs standby
◆ Weight 250g
Cellphones Direct
THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING
QUOTE REF. 5483
* WORTH £60.00 PER YEAR
FREEPHONE 0800 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM
PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL (SORRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS)
[illegible]

Do up your bathroom without splashing out.

£99.99
Triton T80i 9.5 kw electric shower
Was £129.99
Save £30

£14.99
Wooden toilet seat available in pine, Mahogany and Antique pine finishes
Was £19.99

£7.99
Dulux Pure Brilliant White non drip gloss 2.5L
Was £8.99

£9.99
Dulux Pure Brilliant White Vinyl matt or silk 5L
Was £11.99

£39.99
Earlex Steama plus wallpaper stripper with complete steam cleaning kit
Was £49.99

£39.99
Black & Decker VP900 Paintmate with 5 FREE £2 vouchers for Dulux Once Handypacks

PLUS SAVE 20% ON:
- Pine dado rail
- Pine picture rail
- Prestige white bathroom accessories

DO IT ALL
LET'S DO UP BRITAIN!

DO IT ALL HELPLINE Free help and advice 7 days a week 0800 436 436

Offers subject to availability.

Prescott blitz fails to ruffle urbane Rifkind

Magnus Linklater believes it would take an organised campaign of tactical voting by the Lib Dems and SNP to unseat the 'trustable' face of Scottish conservatism

THE John Prescott whirlwind yesterday tore briefly but memorably through Edinburgh Pentlands, Malcolm Rifkind's leafy suburban seat, where he is perched on a fragile majority of little more than 4,000.

It was a bravura performance — Labour calls it "blitzing" — a series of machinegun exchanges with stunned voters in the Wester Hailes area, a Labour enclave in a largely Tory area. Mr Prescott, campaigning for Lynda Clark, was in his element, dealing with a woman whose son is dyslexic ("That sounds just like what Michael Heseltine has"); a man with a complicated complaint about benefits ("Why don't we give it to Lynda. Lynda'll give it to me *and I'll deal with it*") and a diatribe on education ("We want more and more, not less and less, classes of five, six or seven, teachers off the dole, hurry inside, you're getting cold").

Window stickers for the SNP appeared to outnumber Labour's — a warning for new Labour that Mr Prescott chose to ignore as he roared off for his next blitzkrieg. The real worry here, however, is for the Tories. This is a marginal they simply cannot afford to lose: not only would the Foreign Secretary be without a seat, but it would indicate a wholesale collapse of their support north of the border. The indications are that Mr Rifkind will just hold on, as he has through thick and thin since 1974. But there has been a swing away from the Tories in the last ten days, and the one thing that could dislodge him is the tactical vote, Liberal Democrats and Scottish Nationalists switching votes to get a Tory out.

So far there is no sign of this being organised on any widespread scale, and set against it is the recognition factor: Mr Rifkind is a "weel-kent face" in Pentlands. Outside Safeway at Hunter's Tryst I met a rarity, a first-time Tory voter. A girl in an Alice band said her parents had always voted Conservative and she did not trust Tony Blair because he was a lawyer and a politician. "But Malcolm Rifkind is a lawyer and a politician," I pointed out. "Yes, but Mr Rifkind's got a trustable face."

The trustable face works his patch with practised ease. An introduction, a quick chat about the weather or local gossip, and it's on to the next contact — quick, efficient, good-humoured. Mr Rifkind's majority has been remarkably steady over the years. "It has *never fallen below 1,000 or* risen above 5,000," he announces proudly.

Ms Clark, Mr Rifkind's Labour opponent, is also a lawyer. She adopts a more diffident approach and is less intrusive. We meet in South Morningside, where a large number of professional people live and where she believes she has growing support.

It is here that I find Paul Sadler, a 45-year-old teacher who is convinced that a Scottish parliament is the only way that change will be effected. "There is far too much centralisation. If Labour doesn't deliver devolution, I'll never vote for them again," he says. Ms Clark gives him a solid pledge and a window sticker.

The issue that seems to emerge is change, or lack of it. Does new Labour genuinely offer an alternative, or has it betrayed the ideals it once stood for? Unless Lynda Clark can demonstrate that Labour is a radical alternative, the electorate of Edinburgh Pentlands may well opt for the trustable face of Mr Rifkind yet again.

Neil MacCormick cycles off in search of the voters of Coll. Our reporter found that campaigning on the island is the opposite of frenetic. Photographs: MIKE WILKINSON

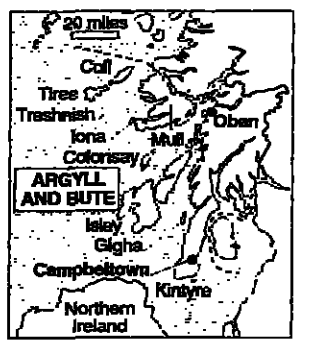
Decent folk don't talk politics

Ben Macintyre shuts his eyes as the professor flies in for a very few quiet words with the electors of Coll

CATRIONA BRODIE has herded the sheep and lambs off the landing strip, Alan Brodie has erected a windsock by nailing a pair of his old orange fishing waders to a pole and Neil MacCormick, Regius Professor of Law at Edinburgh University and Scottish National Party candidate for Argyll and Bute, is coming in to land on the tiny island of Coll.

This constituency, made up of two million acres of the Scottish mainland and islands of the inner Hebrides, is one of the most beautiful and least accessible in Britain. Canvassing here requires special techniques, in this case a borrowed four-seat plane.

"It allows me to make better use of my time. This way I can up the voter-per-hour ratio without spending all my time on ferries," says Professor MacCormick, a more agricultural than academic figure clad in peat-brown checked suit and tweed cap, and strongly resembling a country auctioneer.



As we fly low over Mull and the Treshnish Isles towards the field on Coll that was, until a few minutes earlier, the lambing park for the Brodie flock, the view takes the breath away. So does the landing. "Och, d'ye see that great big hare?" asks the candidate, as we shudder to a stop.

Not with your eyes closed, you don't.

Coll has 117 voters. We are due to be here for three hours, which makes a possible hit rate of roughly 40 voters an hour. But campaigning in the western Highlands is not like that. First there is gossip to exchange, tea to drink, lambs to bottle-feed, bumpy roads to negotiate in a wheezing banger, newspapers to deliver and plenty of gazing in awe at the scenery. Despite Professor MacCormick's formidable energy, a charming languor tends to creep into proceedings that could not be further removed from the furious campaigning in more stressful parts of nation.

Most notably, it is considered the height of bad manners to ask what anyone plans to do at the polls. Where other candidates may go in with a blunt: "Can I count on your vote next Thursday?" Professor MacCormick is obliged to make remarks about the weather today (spectacular) or the weather yesterday (spectacularly wet) and, more often than not, leave it at that.

Since the population is genetically disinclined to share its political opinions, Argyll and Bute is a pollster's nightmare, as freakishly unpredictable as the climate. Over the past 20 years the constituency has been captured by three different parties.

Professor MacCormick's brother Iain held the seat for the SNP from 1974 until 1979. Then the Tories moved in until 1987, when they were ousted by Ray Michie, of the Liberal Democrats. Mrs Michie held on in 1992, but with just 4,000 votes separating the Lib Dems, the Tories and the SNP, this is a three-way marginal or, in the view of Professor MacCormick who improved the SNP vote by 6 per cent last election, a straight fight between the Lib Dems and the nationalists.

Our first stop seems an unlikely recruiting ground for the SNP: Breachadh Castle, the 14th-century fortress built by clan chief McLean of Coll and rebuilt by his descendant 13 generations later, Major Nicholas McLean-Bristol. Major McLean-Bristol wears a kilt, a welcoming smile, a plummy English accent and his political affiliations on his sleeve (the only person to do so all day): "It's a pity you're not a Conservative, then I'd vote for you," he says.

Professor MacCormick in the plane he uses to get around the constituency.

In a constituency where nearly 10 per cent of voters are Gaelic speakers, Professor MacCormick's command of the language (learned, along with the bagpipes, from his uncle Dougal) is invaluable, but his family links in the area may be his single strongest asset. The product of nationalist parents and himself one of the main architects of the SNP's constitutional platform, Professor MacCormick was born in Glasgow but spends much of his time in Argyll. He appears to be related, albeit distantly, to almost everyone in his constituency.

The candidate hails the district nurse: "Ah, you're a Henderson. My grandmother was a Henderson from Campbeltown," the town on the end of the Kintyre peninsula and the furthest point in mainland Britain from a railway station. "She was aiming for Canada, but missed." "Not by much," observes the nurse.

A close friend of the late Labour leader John Smith, at whose funeral on Iona he played the bagpipes, Professor MacCormick's approach to the cause of Scottish independence has become more radical over a lifetime's campaigning. "In the 1970s I was very convincedly a gradualist. I now think that if we're going to do it, let's do it quickly, cleanly and with good will."

The question of Scottish independence, oddly, barely arises as the candidate strolls around Coll. For the "Collachs", the issues are the cost of freight, the agricultural subsidies and fear that Coll may run dry of petrol since the island shop decided it was no longer economical to sell it.

"We must find the postie," Paul Keegan, pilot and campaign aide, says. Having located and greeted the island postmaster, key disseminator of island information, Professor MacCormick leans on the top of his red van and the two commune wordlessly for about five minutes. This is a splendid way to campaign.

"I used to sing wi' yer brother," says Willie McPhie, retired gamekeeper, as he rolls a very small cigarette, very slowly, by the pier. "*Seagulls 'round the Lighthouse*. Good songs," he adds, as if by way of explanation.

Professor MacCormick nods gravely. "Next time I come we'll have a ceilidh."

Then the tiny plane is bouncing off again down the Brodies' field, heading for nearby Tiree, as Mr Brodie's waders flap stiffly in a strange, two-legged salute.

LEGAL & GENERAL FAMILY PROTECTION PLAN

life ASSURANCE?

Here's a low-cost alternative.

£48,263 OF *life* COVER FOR JUST 20P* A DAY

Introducing low-cost term assurance from Legal & General.

Wouldn't it make sense to pay for life assurance only when you really need *it*? When your children are growing up, for example. Now you can, with the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

For just £6.08 a month (the equivalent of 20p a day), a lump sum is paid should you die or become eligible for terminal illness benefit. For that premium, a non-smoking man aged 30 could get £48,263 of cover for 15 years.

But the real advantage is you choose the *term of the policy* and you choose *the amount* of cover you require or the monthly contribution that suits you.

So if you'd prefer life assurance that isn't a lifetime commitment, call or send for your personal, no-obligation quote today.

*Equivalent to £6.08 a month.

Legal & General

Please send me a personal quotation and information pack on the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.
Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC 0467), Cardiff CF1 1YW.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) ______
Forename(s) ______
Address ______
______ Postcode ______
Tel No. Home ______ Tel No. Work ______
Date of Birth ___/___/19___ I am a smoker ☐ Non-smoker ☐
Cover required £ ______ Term required ______ Years (minimum 2 years)

CALL NOW FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE
8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday
For your security calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored
Further information on other Legal & General products is available on our Website://www.legal-and-general.co.uk

free £10
Interflora voucher
WHEN YOUR APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED AND FIRST PREMIUM PAID
0500 33 66 66
Please Quote Reference Number B2L TKL05

Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the address below. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Legal & General Direct Limited, registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

Posthouse *first for all the* **right reasons**

No. 14

Informal Restaurants

Enjoy a wide range of delicious food from our new menu, in the relaxing surroundings of our informal restaurants.

FORTE Posthouse

To book any hotel call free 0800 404040
or call your local travel agent

For half a century, Switzerland's cuckoo clocks and chocolate have hidden a terrible secret.

Now the full story of Swiss conspiracy, collaboration and profit from the Holocaust is revealed at last.

TOM BOWER
BLOOD MONEY
THE SWISS, THE NAZIS AND THE LOOTED BILLIONS

'A work of major importance'
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

'A compelling . . . deeply disturbing book'
SUNDAY TIMES

OUT NOW

MACMILLAN

America's mixed army goes on trial

FROM IAN BRODIE IN ABERDEEN, MARYLAND

JURORS were deliberating yesterday at a court-martial that hinged on sex and power and questioned the US Army's achievements in integrating men and women in its ranks.

Staff Sergeant Delmar Simpson, 32, a towering figure, faced 19 charges of rape involving six trainees under his command and three dozen other indecent acts against 22 women. He was portrayed as a sexual predator, but it was suggested that some of the women had turned sex to their advantage.

Sgt Simpson's case was the biggest brought against 12 drill sergeants accused of sex crimes at the vast Aberdeen army base on Chesapeake Bay, north of Washington.

To the army's dismay, the Aberdeen scandal unleashed a barrage of similar complaints. More than 7,000 women have called a telephone hotline, leading to 322 investigations of sexual abuse at bases around the world. The army's senior Sergeant-Major has been suspended, pending a sexual harassment inquiry, and there is trouble at the West Point academy.

How big a quandary the army faces is still emerging, but evidence supports the view voiced privately by many senior officers that co-educational training is failing and threatens military discipline. General John Shalikashvili, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said: "It's too early to say if this is a system problem or individuals who have done something very, very wrong."

One in seven soldiers is a woman, but Olympia Snowe, the only woman on the Senate armed services committee, says that integration needs to be reconsidered. She says a Pentagon survey showed that half the women in uniform had suffered harassment in the previous year.

Dinosaur treasure trove unveiled

One of the fossils of a chicken-size dinosaur, about 135 million years old, found in northeastern China

Scientists thrilled by fossil find at Chinese site

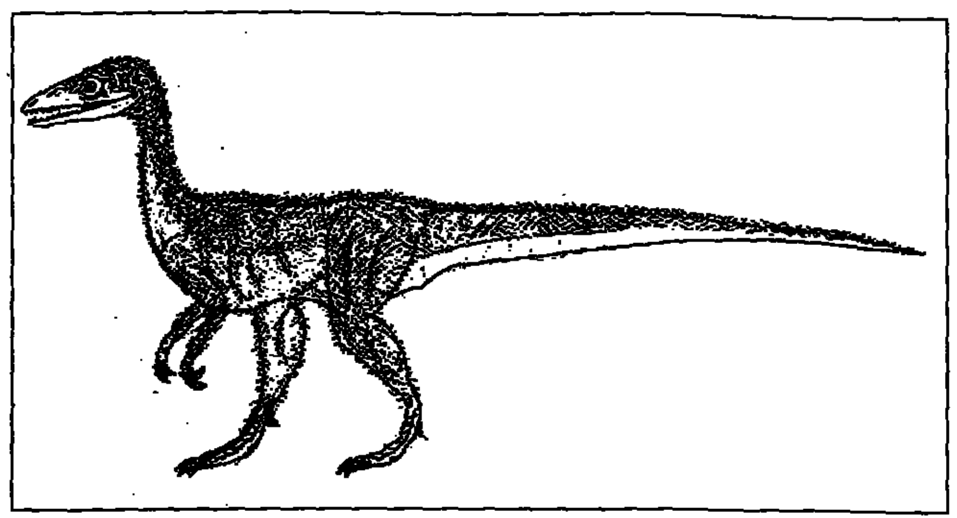
BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

A DINOSAURS' graveyard found in a remote region of northern China is being hailed as the richest source of fossils in the world.

Remains of primitive birds, mammals, insects, plants and dinosaurs have been discovered, apparently frozen at a moment about 135 million years ago when a sudden catastrophe, perhaps a volcanic eruption, wiped them out.

Among the most exciting fossils are more than 200 of a primitive bird, *Confucius ornis*, and several specimens of a chicken-sized dinosaur, one with an egg still in its body waiting to be laid. Chinese palaeontologists have named this species *Sinosauropteryx prima*, and suggest that it may be the first true bird.

Inside another specimen of the same species was the jaw bone from a primitive mammal that had just been eaten. The jawbone is about an inch wide and has sharp teeth.



A drawing of *Sinosauropteryx prima*, which scientists think could be the first true bird

Details of the site, at Beipiao Liaoning in northeastern China, were announced at a meeting in Philadelphia on Thursday by an international team invited by the Chinese authorities to visit the site. The team was led by Dr John Ostrom, a retired professor from Yale, who said that seeing the site was one of the most exciting moments of his life. "Nowhere else in the world are fossils from such a critical time so well preserved," he said.

The first fossils from the site were found by a local farmer, who recognised their commercial potential. Since then, Chinese palaeontologists have explored the site and begun reporting results. A remarkable feature is the excellent preservation of the fossils.

While many fossil sites only preserve the bones of ancient animals, the Liaoning site preserved surface features such as claws, scales and skin. "There are plant remains, insect remains, fish remains and land animal remains. It has just begun to be exploited," Dr Ostrom said.

The group, also comprising Dr Peter Wellnhofen of the University of Munich, David Bubier of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Dr Larry Martin of the University of Kansas and Dr Alan Brush of the University of Connecticut, were especially interested in fossils that may represent a transitional form between dinosaurs and birds.

These include *Sinosauropteryx*, which appears to have had feathers running in a line along its spine. Dr Ostrom described the bird-dinosaur's covering as "unlike anything we have ever seen in the world before — quite different from modern feathers or hair, but also different from the skin of other dinosaurs".

Other members of the group were more doubtful, arguing that the frill along the creature's back might be what is left of tissue that lay under the skin in life, or even traces left by bacteria as the animal decomposed. The small dinosaur is thought to be at least 120 million years old.

There was further debate about another small dinosaur, which the Chinese have called *Protoarchaeopteryx*, arguing it is a primitive, featherless ancestor of *Archaeopteryx*, long considered the first true bird. Dr Martin and other members of the group doubt this, pointing out that it lived later than *Archaeopteryx*, so could not be its ancestor.

FBI links Beijing to campaign funding

BY IAN BRODIE

THE FBI has reportedly amassed substantial evidence linking top officials in the Chinese Government to attempts to buy influence among American politicians.

According to Washington sources, the Beijing officials approved the campaign-financing plan in 1995. The scheme allegedly continued throughout last year's election and still does so.

Intercepted secret communications between the Chinese Embassy and Beijing have now established that the attempts to buy influence were sanctioned by the Government, according to an account in *The Washington Post* by Bob Woodward, the Watergate reporter. Earlier, some White House officials had concluded that the scheme might have gone no higher than the embassy.

Officials refused to name the top Chinese who allegedly approved the plans, but one source said: "It's a pretty small top." He said that the two leading officials in China were President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Prime Minister.

The implications for Sino-American relations could be profound. The Chinese have strenuously denied any involvement, but were warned during recent visits to Beijing by Vice-President Al Gore and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, that it would be considered serious if it were proved that Chinese government money had been injected into the American political process. The issue seems likely to come up again when Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, meets Ms Albright in Washington on Monday.

Possible unsuspecting recipients of Chinese funds are believed to be at least six members of Congress, as well as last year's Clinton-Gore campaign warchest and President Clinton's legal defence fund.

Oklahoma victim tells of blast

FROM TOM RHODES IN DENVER

THE Oklahoma City bombing was relived in a Denver courtroom yesterday as prosecutors opened their evidence and played a tape recording of the blast to tearful relatives and victims.

Among the first witnesses in the trial of Timothy McVeigh, chief suspect for America's worst act of terrorism, was a Marine blinded in the explosion. Michael Norfleet, a decorated Gulf War hero, said he had parked his car just yards from the rented yellow van which blew up only minutes later, killing 168 adults and children.

Mr Norfleet, awarded an air combat medal during Operation Desert Storm, said he saw someone he thought was a Marine leaving the van. He went to the sixth floor of the Alfred Murrah building. Sergeant Benjamin Davis, a colleague expecting promotion that day, sat on one side of the room. Mr Norfleet went to the other to talk to two other sergeants. He never saw Sergeant Davis alive again.

"I just about had time to get 'Hello' and 'Good morning' out of my mouth when the bomb hit," he told the court. A shard of glass struck his right eye and cut an artery in his neck. The Marine also suffered a broken nose and fractured skull, but managed to walk down the stairs to safety. "I knew if I stayed in that building I would die," he said.

Mr Norfleet's testimonywas part of a prosecution strategy to shock the jury with intimate details of suffering to cover cracks in evidence, which fails to place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day.

Lou Klaver, a lawyer working near by, described the aftermath of the blast. "It was like a war zone outside," she said. "Everything was down in my office when I went back: the walls were down, everything was wet and my computer was stuck with glass shards."

Senate backs chemical arms treaty

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE US Senate has approved a world treaty outlawing chemical weapons, handing President Clinton a major foreign policy victory.

The 74-26 verdict, clearing by seven votes the two-thirds majority needed for treaty approval, opened the way for the United States to ratify the pact, the Chemical Weapons Convention, before it takes effect next Tuesday. Mr Clinton, who had invested much political and personal capital in a high-profile campaign to win approval for the treaty, applauded the vote — in which 29 Republicans joined all 45 Democrats to back it — and expressed his "profound gratitude" to the Senate for "serving America well".

Only the Senate is required to give consent to treaty-ratification. However, both the House of Representatives and the Senate will now be asked to pass implementing legislation on the chemical treaty.

In Moscow, the lower house of the Russian parliament yesterday postponed ratification of the treaty, saying that it needed Western funds and more time to destroy its stockpile. However, it backed a draft law committing Russia in principle to destroying its chemical weapons arsenal.

PEOPLES PHONE

"Sony's smallest ever GSM phone available from Britain's BIGGEST specialist."

IT'S HERE!

THE BRAND NEW SONY PHONE OFFERS ALL OF THIS

- Jog dial facility
- 80 hours standby
- Lithium-Ion battery
- Weighs only 220 grams
- 10 hours talktime
- SMS/Data compatible
- Flip down microphone

ALL FOR ONLY £199.99 INC. VAT

182 STORES NATIONWIDE

CALL US NOW FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE, TO PLACE AN ORDER OR FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACK

0800•10•11•12

Customers will need to provide a valid credit card or cheque guarantee card plus bank details and proof of address. Offer is subject to status, availability and connection on a new number to new standard airtime contract. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offers. Connection £35.00 inc VAT. Offer ends 30th April 1997. T 26/4

The new Household Names Direct PEP.

A low-cost PEP that's really worth looking into.

Look into the equity managed portfolio of quality UK companies in our new Household Names Direct PEP. [illegible] withdrawal charges and our management fee has got to be one of the very lowest you'll find. So call us now on the number below. Phone lines are open 8am-8pm Monday-Friday (excluding public holidays) and 10am-2pm Saturday.

Midland Bank
Member HSBC Group

MIDLAND direct

CALL FREE:
0800 277 377

Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. We only sell our own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. As with any investment relating to stocks and shares, the prices of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and they may fall below the amount originally invested. Free of tax means free of Income and Capital Gains Tax. Tax legislation and practice could change in the future. Calls may be monitored or recorded. BO/36

Democracy tastes bitter for hungry poor of Mongolia

James Pringle in Ulan Bator finds the pain of free-market reforms has boosted chances of a Communist comeback

MONGOLIA'S dreams of a better life under democracy are fading. The country, with only 2.4 million people, is beset by poverty, with young frontier troops and children starving. Every day brings demonstrations and hunger strikes over unemployment, unpaid pensions and health and education cuts.

This economic pain is caused by the "shock therapy" of abolishing the centralised economy. As a result, a candidate for the reformed Communist Party looks set to win next month's presidential elections.

The problems facing this vast nation lying between Russia and China are familiar in the context of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, and the four-party Democratic Union Coalition, elected in a surprise win last June, still has three years of its mandate to run. But, given the collapsing social fabric, envoys and even Democratic supporters are uncertain if Mongolia's first non-Communist Government in 75 years will see out its term or if serious social unrest will break out.

There are certainly more cars on the street than there were eight or nine years ago, when this was still the one-party Mongolian People's Republic. But there are also many more poor people, including hundreds of abandoned street children who sleep underground alongside the capital's hot-water pipes during harsh weather.

The sense of optimism after the inexperienced coalition's victory last June has largely dissipated under wrenching economic reforms supervised by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The lack of a social safety net has made matters worse. By the most conservative estimates, inflation runs at 50 per cent and unemployment at 15 per cent.

Foreign non-government organisations say Mongolia could soon be in the situation of being a major humanitarian emergency. "We know the reforms are necessary, but without a safety net it is suicide," said John Beauclerk of Save the Children in Britain. A Western envoy added: "There are credible reports of children starving to death."

At the same time, Mongolia now has a largely free press. Television news shows scenes of anti-government protests, and there is robust debate in the Great Hural (parliament). There is even a lively stock market complete with yuppies with cellular phones.

Genghis Khan, the Lord of the Universe, the country's historical hero, has been fully rehabilitated as the national symbol whereas, in Communist times, his name was barely mentioned in whispers.

But prostitution, underground before, is now widespread and few believe the official claim that the country has just one HIV case. There is growing crime, and alcoholism is on the increase. But a much wider variety of food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and consumer goods are on sale in the markets, though accessible only to a prosperous minority.

"Every third child is malnourished in some way," said Otto Farkas, of World Vision. "There is a rapid collapse of the safety net and people cannot afford to buy food — 36 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line."

Seventeen children are reported to have died of malnutrition in one Gobi province, and in the capital malnutrition was "a major contributing cause of much infant mortality", said Mr Beauclerk.

Genghis Khan, back in favour on a poster

"We know we need economic reform, but our lives have become too hard," said a young woman in central Sukhbaatar Square during a pro-Communist demonstration by jobless people in which the police made an arrest. In fact, nobody doubts that economic reform is vital.

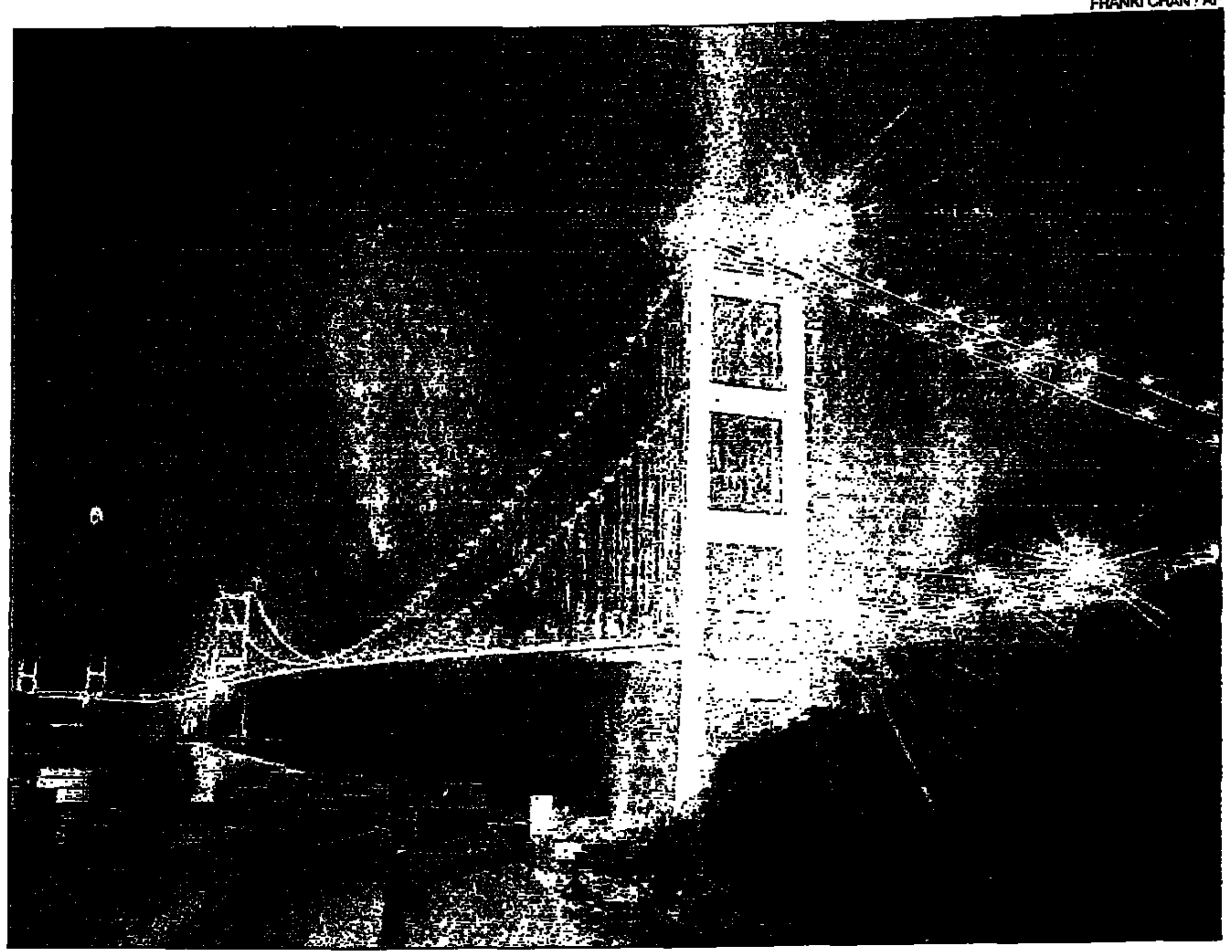
"We have corruption, poverty, street children, prostitution, indigent old people, alcoholism and declining education and health care," said L. Erdenachuluun, a former UN Ambassador and now adviser to President Orchirbat, 55, one of three candidates in the May 18 polls. "We have no money to ease the situation, and the prospect of social unrest is real."

Ms H. Hulan, a Democratic MP and chairman of the Hural's social affairs committee, said: "Boldness is fine, but common sense and rationality are also important. People are suffering and are not happy with us. Patience is running out fast."

If the former Communist candidate, N. Barabandi, wins the presidency, the Democrats will retain their parliamentary lead. But the President has veto power over legislation and his veto can be overturned only by a two-thirds parliamentary majority. The Democrats are one vote short of that. A President coming from the Opposition could thwart or dilute economic reforms, envoys believe.

C. Enkhbayer, a business executive, summed it up. "Before 1990, life was beautiful. Everyone had just enough. But now the gap between rich and poor is growing. I don't want the Communists, again because I prefer freedom. I will vote Democrat because I believe it will some day provide a better future."

FRANKI CHAN / AP



The £560 million Tsing Ma Bridge is lit up on the eve of its official opening by Baroness Thatcher tomorrow. It will provide the main link to Hong Kong's £12 billion new airport which will be completed next year

Setback for Beijing as Clinton smiles on colony's liberals

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

HONG KONG COUNTDOWN

THE meeting last week between Martin Lee, leader of Hong Kong's Democrats, and President Clinton was a political triumph for human rights and the rule of law which Beijing cannot dismiss.

Equally, the cancellation in the same week of a trip to the United States by Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's Chief Executive-designate, is a political disaster for Beijing's chosen successor to Chris Patten, the Governor, which even Mr Tung's supporters cannot disguise.

It is not every day that Mr Clinton spends 25 minutes with a legislator from a medium-sized city. But Mr Lee is the leader of the party which won the most votes in the 1995 election for Hong Kong's 60-member Legislative Council: China will abolish this body at midnight on June 30 and replace it with one handpicked to rubberstamp Mr Tung's decrees. Mr Lee's message during his recently completed month-long tour abroad was that, by expunging the wholly elected Legislative Council and bringing in ordinances to limit political activity, Beijing will violate its international treaty obligations to retain the city's essential autonomy.

Americans are becoming disillusioned with the Clinton policy of "constructive engagement" which claims that not confronting Beijing publicly on human rights, and even weapons sales to Iraq, Libya and Iran, saves Chinese face and produces gradual liberalisation. Mr Clinton recognised, therefore, that it was good politics as well as good policy to see Mr Lee and afterwards say — even if in only general terms — that he "expects" Beijing to adhere to its treaty obligations to Hong Kong. Mr Clinton also is becoming aware that Chinese ambitions in East Asia, including reincorporation of Taiwan and domination of strategic sea lanes, may cool if Beijing realises Washington sees Hong Kong as a tripwire, not just a territory China can reabsorb on any terms.

It was acknowledged in the State Department that Mr Lee's talk with Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, persuaded her to attend the handover ceremonies on June 30, explicitly as a sign that America is committed to retention of Hong Kong's status not only as a trading miracle but as a key factor in the growth of Asian liberty.

Mr Lee is regularly denounced by Mr Tung for "bad-mouthing" Hong Kong while abroad. But although Mr Tung had been planning a visit to the United States next month to set the record straight, he abruptly cancelled the trip while Mr Lee was on his way to see President Clinton. Those around Mr Tung realise that, after Mr Lee's success, Mr Tung would have to be eloquent indeed to justify his curtailment of Hong Kong's liberties because "Chinese values" favour obligations, family and order rather than individual rights. Mr Clinton and Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, have made plain that how Beijing treats Hong Kong will be a benchmark of its international behaviour.

☐ Visa concession: America announced last night it would grant ten-year multiple-entry visas to holders of new Hong Kong passports after sovereignty reverts to China in July. Holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) passports will receive the same visa treatment now enjoyed by holders of Hong Kong British passports. *(Reuter)*

WORLD SUMMARY

UN envoy on Sahara mission

James Baker, the former US Secretary of State, arrived in Algeria yesterday in an attempt to resolve one of the world's most intractable disputes: the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario independence movement over Western Sahara (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Baker, who has become a United Nations envoy, has had two meetings with King Hassan about a possible settlement in the mineral-rich former Spanish colony, most of which was annexed by Morocco in 1975.

Admiral sacked

Karachi: Admiral Mansur ul-Haq, Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, has been dismissed after widespread allegations of bribery concerning the purchase of military hardware (Zahid Hussain writes).

His removal came after claims that he had received money linked to procurement of Agosta 90B submarines from France and other equipment.

Clash kills five

Lagos: A man aged 75 was beheaded and four others were killed as ethnic clashes spread to Koko town in the oil-producing midwestern part of Nigeria, newspapers reported. Grenades and dynamite were used in the attacks, houses were set ablaze and the hospital in the town was damaged. *(Reuter)*

Suicide plan

Los Angeles: Five thousand Uwa tribespeople in Colombia are threatening mass suicide, copying the legendary example of 17th-century ancestors in the face of Spanish colonialism, to protest at drilling by Occidental Oil on land they say is theirs. *(AP)*

Double trouble

Moscow: A puppet of President Yeltsin used in a popular weekly satirical television show has been stolen. A spare that is a less convincing likeness is being used while a new one is made. *(Reuter)*

What will IT COST YOU to PUT OFF starting a PENSION plan?

A one-year delay could cost you £19,000 on retirement†

†Based on a 25 year old contributing £100 a month until retirement at 60

The longer you leave it, the harder it could become to build up a decent pension fund. Don't lose out – start the ball rolling today with a simple, no-obligation call to Legal & General.

○ Start from £50 a month
○ 2-year satisfaction guarantee
○ Low charges increase your pension's potential
○ Portable from job to job
○ Flexible contributions
○ Payment holidays‡

Legal & General
TRUST US TO DELIVER

Please send me a personal illustration and information pack on the Legal & General Personal Pension Plan.

Title: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) ________ Forename: ________

Surname: ________

Address: ________

________ Postcode: ________

Are you: Self-employed ☐ Employed ☐ Unemployed ☐

I am*/am not* currently in an employer's pension scheme.

Planned retirement age (50 to 75): ______ Date of birth: / /

Initial contribution (Gross): £______ per month (min. £50)

£______ per annum (min. £500) £______ single (min. £2,000).

Please post to: Legal & General Pensions Plan, FREEPOST (SWC1006), Cardiff CF1 1YW.

Further information on Legal & General products is available on our website http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk

*delete as appropriate

Take the first steps to starting your pension now

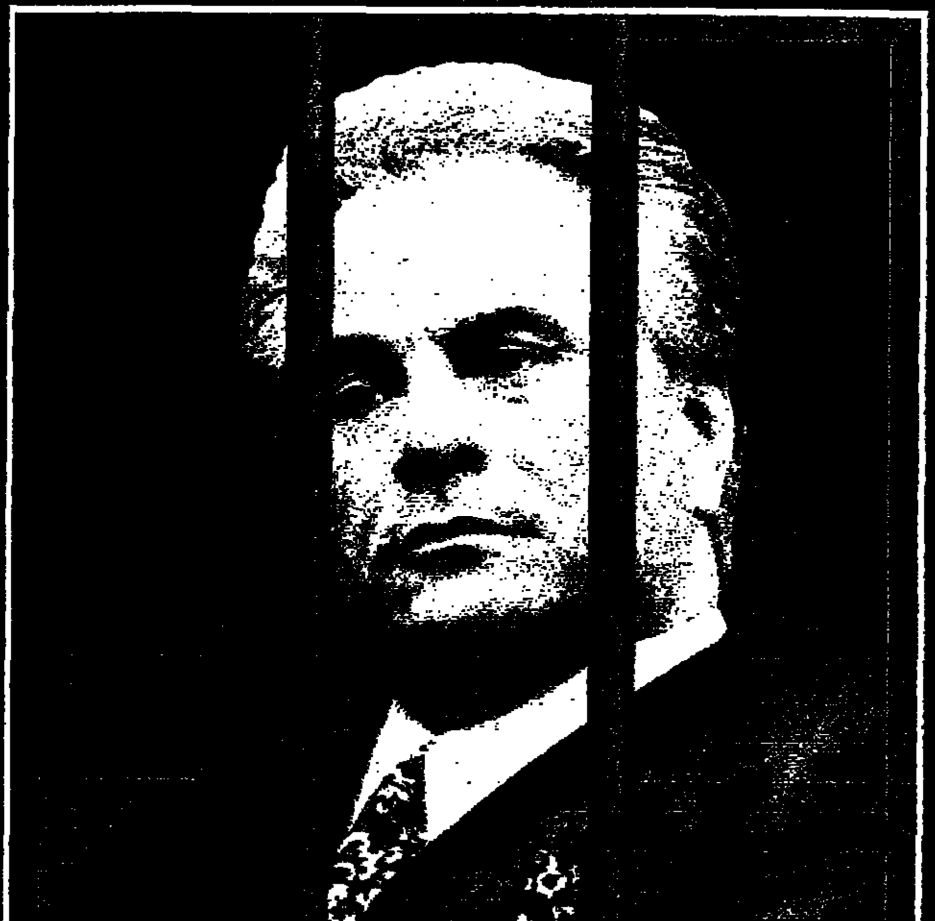
0500 65 65 65

B10/DL02

†Projections based on an investment return of 9%. All insurance companies use the same rate of growth for illustrations but charges vary. These figures are only examples and are not guaranteed and what you get back depends on how your investment grows. Remember, inflation will reduce what you could buy in the future with the amount shown. ‡Subject to Legal & General's agreement. Now and then, we may tell you about our other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Full written details of terms and conditions are available on request. Legal & General Direct Limited. Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

DOWNFALL OF THE DAPPER DON



READ EXCLUSIVE EXTRACTS FROM UNDERBOSS, THE DRAMATIC BOOK THAT REVEALS HOW AMERICA'S No 1 MAFIA BOSS WAS BETRAYED

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Gaullist squabble threatens Juppé as poll lead shrinks

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, was under fire yesterday as cracks appeared in his centre-right majority's parliamentary election campaign.

Senior figures in the Gaullist-led coalition suggested he was uncertain of being reappointed to head the Government even if he wins next month's two-round election.

The speculation came as an opinion poll showed the Socialist Opposition catching up with a Government that enjoyed a comfortable lead before President Chirac called the snap election on Monday.

The poll reflected a bad week for the Gaullist Prime Minister. His popularity is in freefall, Gaullist Eurosceptics threaten to speak out, and transport strikes paralysed much of France yesterday.

Industrial action, which hit the railway network, Air France's domestic flights and ferry services to Corsica, highlighted the dangers facing M Chirac and M Juppé. They have pledged to continue policies designed to reduce the public deficit and prepare France for the single currency if the Centre-Right is reelected.

At a time when the French are concerned at unemployment of more than three million, worried about welfare cuts and irritated by repeated public-sector stoppages, the promise of continuity has limited appeal. So, too, does M Juppé, according to an opinion poll published in *Paris-Match*, which showed just 25 per cent of voters are satisfied with his performance as Prime Minister.

At his first campaign meeting in Marseilles on Thursday, M Juppé, 51, demonstrated the communication difficulties that have contributed to his poor ratings. He looked stiff and austere as he accused the left-wing Opposition of "living in the wrong century".

The Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin, has concentrated his fire on his Gaullist rival, warning voters that if they elect the Centre-Right "you will get five more years of Juppé". Last night he refused a television debate with M Juppé, François Léotard, leader of the centrist UDF movement, and Robert Hue, the Communist Party leader. M Jospin said he preferred a face-to-face duel with the Prime Minister.

Juppé: his popularity this week is in freefall

His tactic is working. An opinion poll published by *Le Point* said the Gaullist-led coalition is losing ground and stands to win a majority of just three seats. In the outgoing parliament, it had a majority of almost 200. Voters find M Jospin's campaign, based on the slogan "Let's Change the Future", better than M Juppé's, says the survey.

In an attempt to distract attention from M Juppé, some of his allies, including M Léotard, have hinted that M Chirac might appoint a fresh face as Prime Minister if the Centre-Right is returned to office. The French press had assumed the President Chirac would reselect M Juppé. But even M Juppé has given credence to the rumour, saying: "In legislative elections, one votes for a majority, not a head of government."

Leading article, page 23

HIV cases rise 33% in South Africa

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S Health Minister, Dr Nkosazana Zuma, yesterday unveiled new figures showing that the number of people infected by HIV, the Aids-related virus, rose in a year by 33 per cent.

In 1996, about 2.4 million people, or 6 per cent of the population, were HIV-positive, a rise of one third over 1995.

Tests carried out across the country showed that among pregnant women attending ante-natal clinics the HIV rate increased by 30 per cent in the year, with one woman in seven now infected. Such women will inevitably bear HIV-infected babies, 80 per cent of whom are expected to die before the age of two.

In the province of KwaZulu-Natal alone, 1,000 such babies are born every month. Another 700-800 South Africans contract the disease every day.

Mrs Zuma, presenting the figures, commented simply that "this is bad news and it should be written in bold print". However, many Aids workers are highly critical of the Government's ineffectual efforts to stop the spread of the syndrome. In order not to offend conservative African social mores, all anti-Aids publicity carefully avoids being explicit. Typically, the public is urged to "join the new struggle — unite to fight against Aids", with pictures of demonstrating Africans in ANC colours, suggesting that the campaign is a sort of extension of the anti-apartheid struggle.

Not surprisingly, many Africans are confused by such propaganda. There is no mention of condoms, or often of sexual practices in general. Dr Zuma indirectly gave support to such criticisms when she said that she had talked to young people and found that "they only go with fat people because they could see thin people were the ones who died from the disease".

French paratroops preparing in Brazzaville to assist in a possible evacuation of foreigners from Kinshasa

Fears over fate of missing Rwandans

BY DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THERE is growing concern about the fate of 85,000 Rwandan refugees in the jungle of Zaire's remote interior. Amid fears of massacres and human rights abuses by rebel forces, the United Nations yesterday confirmed that it had carried out an aerial search of the area where the refugees were last seen, but failed to find them.

"The first priority remains to find the refugees," said Paul Stromberg for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kisangani yesterday. UN officials said they were horrified to find Kasese refugee camp, 15 miles south of Kisangani, empty of its 55,000 inhabitants when they visited it on Thursday. They had been denied earlier access to the camp by rebels of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, who said they were conducting military operations.

The rebels, who control more than half of Zaire, are trying to overthrow President Mobutu Sese Seko. "I am absolutely shocked," said Filippo Grandi, the head of UNHCR in eastern Zaire, after visiting Kasese. "There was a camp here a few days ago. People were sick, hungry and too weak to walk. Now where are they? We need answers from the rebels about their fate."

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has dismissed allegations that his fighters have slaughtered many refugees. He says his men simply intervened to protect local villagers who were attacked by Rwandan militiamen. But the UN Security Council has condemned the rebels for obstructing the distribution of relief supplies and hindering attempts to establish the fate of the missing refugees.

UN backs settlement boycott

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations General Assembly yesterday called for an international boycott of Israel's settlement activities in occupied Palestinian territory and demanded an immediate halt to a Jewish housing project in east Jerusalem.

The 185-nation assembly voted against the Har Homa settlement by 134-3, with only Israel, America and Micronesia against. Germany abstained. The General Assembly first condemned the settlement project last month. However, it took up the subject again, holding its first emergency session since 1982, after the United States cast its veto twice in the 15-nation Security Council to shield Israel from criticism. America complained that the assembly was usurping the authority of the Security Council by using a Korean War precedent to move an issue before the whole UN membership when the council is deadlocked.

☐ **Jerusalem:** Israel condemned the resolution as "a manifestation of unconscionable onslaught on a perfectly innocent act by Israel", said David Bar-Illan, the communications director for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. *(Reuter)*

Lima rebels 'were shot after surrender'

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RELATIVES of the 14 Tupac Amaru rebels killed in Tuesday's storming of the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima complained yesterday that the authorities were not allowing their proper burial. The relatives also claim that they have not been allowed to view the bodies.

The claims come amid reports that some rebels were killed after surrendering, some with a close-range shot to the head. Two teenage women guerrillas are said to have been heard pleading with soldiers, and crying "surrender, surrender" seconds before they were shot by the commandos who stormed the residence and succeeded in freeing alive all but one of the 72 hostages who had been held since before last Christmas.

According to *La República*, microphones hidden inside two guitars had picked up the women's desperate pleas. The newspaper quoted military sources as saying that intelligence services had recorded the surrender cries. The guitars were among various instruments delivered to the hostages by the International Red Cross during the 126-day siege.

Several of the freed hostages, who asked not to be named, also said that they heard María Hoyos, 16, and Giovanna Esmeralda, 17, pleading for their lives. The accounts all agree that the two were unarmed in a room on the second floor when the troops stormed in.

Other witness accounts also indicate that the troops may have had express orders to execute the guerrillas, even if they surrendered.

£7.99 1 litre UK Equiv. £16.99
£7.99 1 litre
£11.99 1 litre UK Equiv. £24.99
£7.99 1 litre UK Equiv. £15.59
£9.99 (24x50cl) UK Equiv. £28.14
£8.99 (24x44cl) UK Equiv. £21.60
£9.99 200 carton Berkeley Superking Mild & Menthol cigarettes. UK Equiv. £26.50
BEEFEATER
Coors
Glenfiddich

Duty Free Offers.

The pick of the bunch this Spring.

Take a day trip to France, Holland or Ireland and make the most of these sensational offers on-board from 14th April until 31st May.

DAY TRIP OFFERS TO CALAIS, DIEPPE AND HOLLAND

BY CAR:	£15 per car;* £1 per car occupant
BY FOOT:	£1 per person to Calais £5 per person to Dieppe and Holland £10 by Stena Lynx to Dieppe "2 for 1" offer by rail** – London to Calais £18 for 2 people

DAY TRIP OFFERS TO IRELAND BY FOOT

TO ROSSLARE:	£10 per adult by Superferry or Lynx
TO DUN LAOGHAIRE:	£10 per adult,†† including DART rail to Dublin

TO BOOK, CALL

0990 76 76 76

QUOTING REF P360, OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.

Stena Line

*£10 per car supplement for travel on Saturdays to France and on Friday nights to Holland. £10 supplement for motorhome or minibus vehicles. £5 per car supplement each way for travel on Stena Lynx to Dieppe. **Price from London Charing Cross and other selected Connex South Eastern stations. Rail single travellers £18. Book rail at least five days in advance. ††£2 supplement per person for travel on Saturday to Dun Laoghaire. On-board accommodation is compulsory for night sailings to Holland, please call for prices. Duty Free offer subject to availability and HM Customs limits. †Beer/lager not available on Stena Lynx service. UK equivalent price is a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a survey of London and South East UK High Street outlets. Bookings must be made at least 24 hours before departure. For full terms and conditions of travel, see current Fast Ferry and Ferry Guide 1997.

The next generation of ferry company

'Grand Inquisitor' emerges from the shadows of Vatican as concern grows over pontiff's health

Cardinal puts faith in doctrine

ROME FILE

by RICHARD OWEN

AS Pope John Paul II visibly declines, the *éminence grise* of the Vatican, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Bavaria, the Pope's "Grand Inquisitor" and chief doctrinal watchdog for the past 16 years, is building an ever higher profile.

The frail Pope, 76, is keeping up a gruelling travel programme. This weekend he is in the Czech Republic, following his visit to Sarajevo a week ago when he braved wintry showers and an apparent attempt to blow up his motorcade. Next month he goes to Beirut, despite warnings of Islamic terrorist attacks, and to his Polish homeland.

The pontiff is defying medical advice in setting such a pace. At Easter he delivered his *Urbi et Orbi* message sitting down for the first time, and his voice was so weak many were alarmed. In this *fin de régime* atmosphere, Cardinal Ratzinger is increasingly in the limelight.

The deceptively soft-spoken and white-haired cardinal was Archbishop of Munich before being summoned to be head of the Holy Office in 1981. The Office — properly called the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — is the modern successor to the Inquisition, and Cardinal Ratzinger has been ruthless in weeding out heresy.

In the past few months his influence has become overt, with his views flooding the media. He has made nods towards liberal Roman Catholics, for example by suggesting that the decision to grant a divorce might be made by local bishops rather than the Vatican. He has also praised the reformed Italian Communists who, as the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), are the core of the left-wing Italian Government formed a year ago, and urged Italy not to turn away Albanian refugees out of "egoism".

Cardinal Ratzinger's seventieth birthday this month was treated as a major event, with two book launches and his photograph on the front cover of *Famiglia Cristiana*, Italy's best-selling Catholic magazine. But the cardinal remains the stern guardian of orthodoxy. Last month he attacked Eastern religions, reflecting the Vatican's fear that many young people are attracted to Oriental faiths. A true dialogue with other faiths should not be "a journey into emptiness" but a search for "the eternal truth revealed in Jesus", the cardinal said.

St Peter's looks to traditional sponsors

ST PETER'S Basilica is covered in scaffolding. The huge façade of one of the largest churches in Christendom was cleaned only ten years ago. But the Vatican says that it is being "eaten away" by pollution and needs a fundamental facelift for the millennium.

With its pink and grey travertine marble — now sadly stained and grimy — the great basilica is a masterpiece of the Renaissance and Baroque. Begun in 1506 to replace the 4th-century basilica built over St Peter's tomb by the Emperor Constantine, it was completed a century later to designs by Michelangelo, Maderno and Bramante.

Cardinal Virgilio Noe, who is responsible for Vatican buildings, said the Holy See was not seeking external help. "Divine providence and St Peter himself are our best sponsors," he said.

AP

Cardinal Ratzinger has been a ruthless rooter-out of heresy

Sarajevo 'plot' hits gunman's job prospects

TALK of an Islamic plot against the Pope has put paid, for the time being, to plans for Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who tried to kill the Pope in May 1981, to gain "semi-liberty".

Agca has been serving a life sentence in Ancona for the past 16 years. He recently applied for a scheme under which well-behaved prisoners are allowed out to work on day release. A Roman Catholic bookshop in the nearby town of Jesi had offered him employment selling Bibles and sacred objects.

The former member of the terrorist Grey Wolves group claims to have repented, and has prayed for forgiveness in his cell with the Pope himself. "Let him come," said Stefano Balducci, the bookshop owner. "His ideology and past are not important to us."

But Agca admitted this week in *Panorama* magazine that he may have to stay behind bars after the apparent plan to attack the Pope's motorcade in Sarajevo. He said he knew nothing about reported threats to the pontiff's life by "Turkish Muslim fanatics" and described talk of his links to the Mafia as "ridiculous".

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't 6.30
THE DAMNATION OF FAUST
Tue 7.30 ARIADNE ON NAXOS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby Info
Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Ton't 7.00, Tue, Fri 7.30
L'ELISIR D'AMORE
Mon, Thur 7.30 OTELLO
The Royal Ballet
Wed 7.30 (First Night)
MacMillan's
THE JUDAS TREE/Tetley's
AMORES/Balanchine's
SYMPHONY IN C

SADLER'S WELLS at the PEACOCK THEATRE
(0171) 314 8800
BALLET COMUNIDAD DE MADRID
Director Victor Ullate
First UK performances
"Magnificent dancers" Times
Prog 1 until Sat Prog 2 Mon 28 Apr - 3 May 8pm + Sat mats

"Magnificent dancers"
Times
Ballet
Madrid
Until 3 May
See Sadler's Wells
for details

THEATRES

ADELPHI
Legendary Entertainer
JERRY LEWIS
DAMN YANKEES
A helluva musical...with heart!
Red. price prevs from 29 May
Opens 4 June. 0171 413 1777 (24hrs low bkg fee) Grps 0800 614903, 0171 930 3000 (no fee)

ALBERY THEATRE BO & cc 0171 369 1730 cc 344 4444 (No fees)
Grps 413 3321, 312 5069
GARY WILMOT ANN CRUMB
in
THE GOODBYE GIRL
A New Musical
"TERRIFIC...one of the best nights out in London" O.K. Mag
Book by Neil Simon. Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by Don Black
Evgs Mon-Fri 8pm. Wed Mat 3pm, Sats 5 & 8.30pm.

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6007/ 420 0000 (24 hrs/no bkg fee)
Groups 0171 416 6075
Eves 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 3pm
"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN TOWN...STUNNINGLY BRILLIANT
Herald Tribune
MICHAEL GAMBON ALEC McCOWEN
"TOWERING PERFORMANCES"
The Evening Standard
TOM & CLEM
a new play by
STEPHEN CHURCHETT
Directed by
RICHARD WILSON
"HIGHLY ENJOYABLE" D.Tel
"WONDERFULLY COMIC"
The Spectator

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070
cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee)
Grps 0171 494 5454
BEN ELTON'S
POPCORN
"Fast, funny and downright sexy" Evening Standard
"A bloody good night out." F.T.
Mon-Sat 8.00pm
Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH
White knuckle runs 19.45 daily
Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060
344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee)
Groups 494 5454
416 6075/413 3321/436 5588
GREASE
Starring SHANE RICHIE
"A Monster Hit" D Mirror
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mat 3pm
GREASE NOW BKG INTO 1998!

DOMINION 0171 656 1885/0990 204020/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6098/312 1997/ 0800 614803
The Magic comes alive on stage
DISNEY'S
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
A NEW MUSICAL
"THE MOST LAVISH, OPULENT, EYE-POPPING SHOW EVER!"
New York Newsday
Prevs from Apr 29 now booking

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Laurence Olivier Award Nominee
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)
All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes
"Hilarious" Times
Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5
Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)
Tuesday at 8pm
London's Longest Running Comedy Hit

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL
SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS BO/cc 0171 494 5075 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444/ 420 0000 (bkg fee)
Royal Shakespeare Company
THE HERBAL BED
"Peter Whelan's wonderful play... a love story, a moral thriller and a courtroom drama...
THRILLING...FAR AND AWAY THE BEST THING IN THE WEST END" S.Times
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
UNTIL 5 JULY

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033
EWAN HOOPER JAMES SIMMONS
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D.Mail
NOW IN ITS 8th YEAR
Mon-Sat 8pm
Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm
Running time 2hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454
WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS
The Royal National Theatre Production
PIP DONAGHY SUZANNE BERTISH
BARRY STANTON
JB Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail
"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D.Tel
Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee)
Eves 8 Mats Thur 3 & Sat 5
Royal Exchange Theatre Co.
OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY
LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN
"IRRESISTIBLY GLAMOROUS"
"DON'T MISS IT" Obs

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO DEC 97
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00.
Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LABATT'S APOLLO, 0171 416 6050/420 0000/344 4444 (fee) 416 6075/436 5588 (grps, fee)
CLIFF RICHARD
in
HEATHCLIFF
'Spectacular, stunning' D.Mail
Some seats avail in Apr/May
Mon - Sat 8pm

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5450/413 3321
LAST 3 WEEKS TO SEE ROBERT LINDSAY
BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards
"ROBERT LINDSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH & GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY." D. Exp
BARRY HUMPHRIES RETURNS TO THE ROLE OF FAGIN FROM 12 MAY
OLIVER!
3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR
'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE'
S.Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806
0990 500 800/420 0000/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6075
TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
"Sends Shivers Racing Down The Spine" D.Telegraph
Eves 7.45. Mats Wed & Sat 3
(no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm).
£15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance.
Now booking to September
Some seats avail at door Mon - Thu

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5045 (cc bkg fee)/344 4444 (bkg fee)
Eves 7.45, Wed & Sat mats 3pm
SIAN PHILLIPS
simply brilliant as PAM GEMS'
MARLENE
Directed by SEAN MATHIAS

LYRIC THEATRE HAMMERSMITH
0181 741 2311
CHEEK BY JOWL
OUT CRY
by Tennessee Williams
Eves 7.30 Sat mat 2.30
Ltd Season Must End 17 May

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252: Grps 0171 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000.
Please allow extra journey/parking time because of major roadworks.
OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15 THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE by Bertolt Brecht in a new version by Frank McGuinness.
LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30 LADY IN THE DARK a musical play by Moss Hart with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by Kurt Weill.
COTTESLOE Ton't, Mon 7.00 KING LEAR William Shakespeare.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079
24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616
24hrs: 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
The Peter Hall Company
7 days a week
WASTE
by Harley Granville Barker
Ton't & Wed 7.30pm, Thur mat 2.30pm, May 11 at 8pm
"Sulphorous, gripping production gets Hall's first season off to a blazing start" S.Times
CLOUD NINE
by Caryl Churchill
Today at 2.30pm,
Thur at 7.30pm, May 4 mat 3pm
May 10 mat 2.30pm
"Disgracefully funny" D.Mail
HURLYBURLY
by David Rabe
Last perf May 2 at 7.30pm
"It is worth crawling over broken glass to see it"
Kaleidoscope
THE SEAGULL
by Anton Chekhov
English version by Tom Stoppard
Apr 28 & 29 at 7.30pm, May 3 at 2.30pm & 7.30pm, May 4 at 8pm, May 6 & 7 at 7.30pm, May 8 at 2.30pm & 7.30pm, May 9 & 10 at 7.30pm,
Tickets £10 - £19

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909
cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 12TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier/Drama Awards
Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm
NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN '98

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734
344 4444/420 0000 (24 hrs)
Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
PETER BOWLES
CARMEN SILVERA HENRY McGEE
ERIC SYKES
in Moliere's hilarious comedy
THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES
"POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS"
D.Mail
LAST DAY AT PICCADILLY, TRANSFERS TO COMEDY

PICCADILLY THEATRE 0171 369 1734/cc 0171 344 4444
NELL DUNN'S COMEDY
STEAMING
Previews from May 1
MAY 1 ONLY ALL TKTS £10

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444
Groups 420 0200
WINNER
BEST CHOREOGRAPHER
BEST NEW MUSICAL
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS
"REAL POWER & PASSION A BLOCKBUSTER" D. Tel
"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL. A GREAT EVENING OUT" S. Times
MARTIN GUERRE
BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S
"MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"
Int Her Trib
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987
First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 freephone 0800 614803
"HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN'. ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY." D. Mail
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE
THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER
Directed by Jerry Zaks
"AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY" E. Std.
Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm
REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

QUEENS Bo cc 0171 494 5040
cc 344 4444 Grps 494 5454
PATTI LuPONE
IN
MASTER CLASS
by TERRENCE McNALLY
Now Previewing Opens 6 May
Tue-Sat 8pm. Wed & Sat Mats 3pm
Special Bank Holiday Perf
Mon 5th May 8pm

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
LONDON (0171 494 5075)
DUCHESS THEATRE:
THE HERBAL BED
Today 3.00 & 7.30
STRATFORD (01789 295623/ cc 0171 413 1452)
RSC STOPOVER for details 01789 414999
RST. CYMBELINE Today 1.30
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Ton't 7.30
SWAN: CAMINO REAL Today 1.30
HENRY VIII Ton't 7.30
TOP: THE MYSTERIES: THE CREATION Today 1.30 THE PASSION Ton't 7.30

SAVOY BO/cc 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 (no bkg fee) Grps 420 0200
"OSCAR NOMINATED" Ind
SIMON CALLOW
"is exemplary: unsentimental, lucid, lively, absorbing" Times
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR
The Wit, Triumph & Tragedy of Oscar Wilde
by Micheal mac Liammoir
"scrupulous, intelligent, compassionate & funny...ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE SERIOUS ENTERTAINMENTS IN LONDON" Sunday Times
"witty, beautiful, compelling stuff" F.T.
Eves 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
LIMITED SEASON TO 17 MAY

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443
Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8.
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
45th YEAR

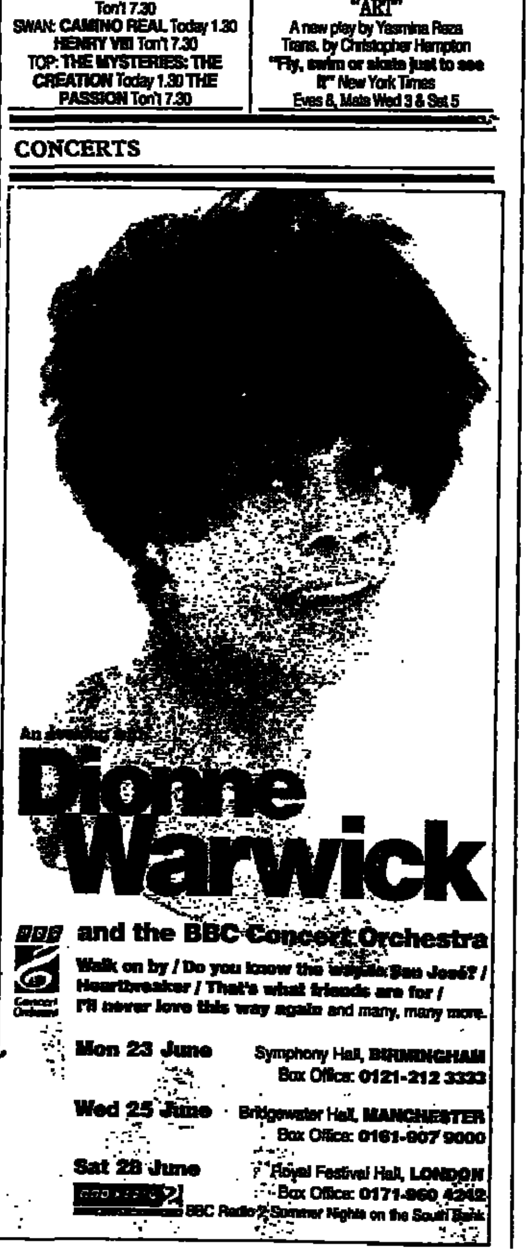
STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800
cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588
'BUDDY'
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
'BUDDY'
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
'BUDDY'
Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30 Sunday 4.00
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR
Now booking 'til October 4

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 (no bkg fee) cc: 420 0000 (bkg fee)
"FRESH, BRAVE & FUNNY"
Telegraph
The New Irish Hit Comedy!
WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF 'HRT'
by Marie Jones
"THE SPIRIT OF SHIRLEY VALENTINE LIVES ON" Gdn
Mon-Sat at 7.45pm, Thur & Sat at 3pm
MUST END 3 MAY

VICTORIA PALACE
0171 834 1317
In a world of privilege a love that broke all the rules
ALWAYS
A NEW MUSICAL
Performances From 20 May
Mon-Sat at 7.30pm
Wed-Sat mats at 3.00pm

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Eve Standard Awards
BEST COMEDY
Laurence Olivier Awards
"ART"
A new play by Yasmina Reza
Trans. by Christopher Hampton
"Fly, swim or skate just to see it" New York Times
Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5

CONCERTS



Dionne Warwick
and the BBC Concert Orchestra
Walk on by / Do you know the way to San José? / Heartbreaker / That's what friends are for / I'll never love this way again and many, many more.
Mon 23 June Symphony Hall, BIRMINGHAM Box Office: 0121-212 3333
Wed 25 June Bridgewater Hall, MANCHESTER Box Office: 0161-907 9000
Sat 28 June Royal Festival Hall, LONDON Box Office: 0171-960 4242
BBC Radio 2 Summer Nights on the South Bank

Ex-Governor attacks neglect of St Helena

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A FORMER Governor of St Helena has accused the Foreign Office of prescribing the very medicine that has made the island sick and causing distress by cutting subsidies in a doctrinaire attempt to create a private sector.

Geoffrey Guy, who remained on St Helena for 12 years after retiring in 1981 and now lives in England, criticised the Foreign Office for ignoring his appeals as Governor that Britain should honour the island's charter and restore the right of free access to Britain.

"Each time the standard line, deeply entrenched, was trotted out: 'We must wait until Hong Kong is out of the way before we can consider such a thing.' Hong Kong is now almost out of the way, so what about St Helena?"

Mr Guy said the Foreign Office was dragging its feet because honouring the obligation to St Helena might mean considering the long-term future of all remaining United Kingdom dependencies — "which it would rather not do unless it must". He said each territory was unique, should be considered separately and needed different answers. He noted that the Falkland Islanders and Gibraltarians enjoyed free access to Britain.

Mr Guy poured scorn on attempts to create a private sector by cutting subsidies. "The geographical remoteness of St Helena and its lack of resources hold it in a double vice and preclude the possibility of significant development. In the past, the mere fact that people were able to emigrate to the United Kingdom and South Africa relieved some pressure."

Many of the first settlers on St Helena were Londoners who had lost all their possessions in the Great Fire of 1666. Now, Mr Guy said, their descendants felt imprisoned by the surrounding ocean.

Collapse of banks shakes Macedonia

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN SKOPJE

MACEDONIA appears to be on the brink of a pyramid investment selling scandal similar to the one in Albania.

Bankers and government officials are keeping a close eye on the trial of Sonja Nikolovska, 44, accused of fraud and other offences in connection with the recent collapse of her TAT bank in Bitola, southwestern Macedonia. About 23,000 investors in TAT, the country's largest private bank, lost a total of DM130 million (£48 million), a vast sum considering that national savings on deposit are believed to total only DM200 million. The past two months have seen the collapse of other, mostly smaller, banks as investment dried up.

Critics allege that local managers were involved with failed pyramid investment schemes in Albania. The managers, it is claimed, moved Macedonian deposits to Albania at very high rates, and then pocketed the proceeds. The resulting crisis in the private banking sector affects the political elite. Ordinary Macedonian investors have lost some, but not all, of their savings and are unlikely to suffer the sort of mass economic hardship of Albanians.

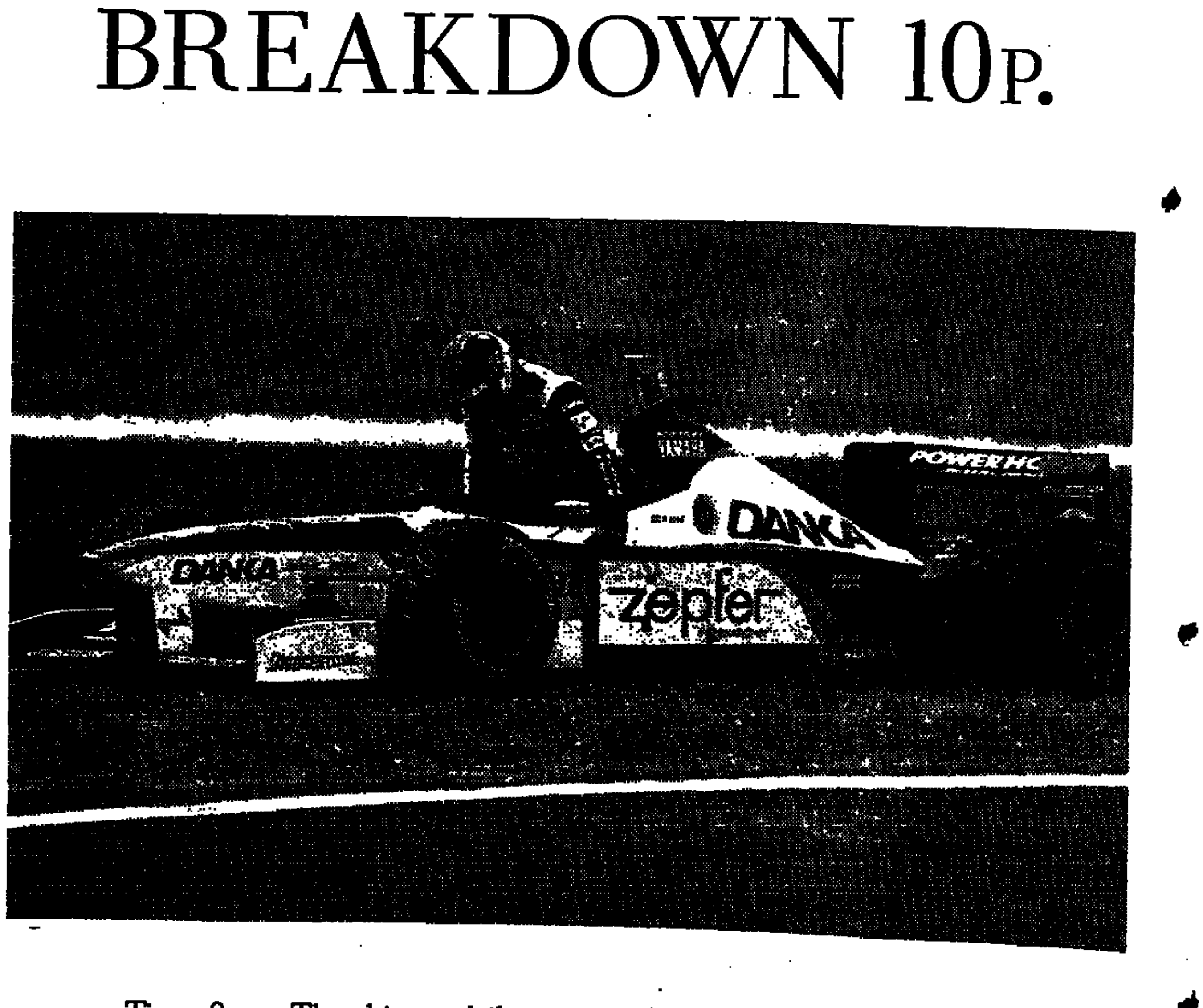
Opposition leaders claim that as much as DM60 million of the TAT money were state funds, manipulated by government ministers. Mrs Nikolovska's lawyers say that senior ministers caused the final collapse of her bank by removing large deposits in January and February.

Mrs Nikolovska was yesterday remanded on bail of DM1.1 million. The Government claimed that false records kept by TAT prevented the National Bank from uncovering the crisis until it was too late. The scandal comes at an unwelcome time for the Government of President Gligorov, which has been dogged by allegations of corruption.

10p THE TIMES

THE SAN MARINO GRAND PRIX.

BREAKDOWN 10P.



Times Sport. The ultimate daily sports section in Monday's 10p Times.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاعلان

■ OPINION

Apart from the National Lottery, how else have the Tories changed the landscape of British culture?

■ THEATRE 1

Escape the election: watch Emmanuelle Béart make her British stage debut on Thursday

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

A riotous dose of political incorrectness in *Waiting to Inhale* at Stratford East

■ ON MONDAY

Hello, Vegas: U2 unveil their new stage show at the start of a world tour

More of everything, except punters

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

All the experts tell me that there are "no votes in the arts". That is one reason why this little patch of newsprint has been a blissful no-hustings zone until now. Another reason is that no party has offered an arts policy worth half a cheer. Mind you, Labour's "people's priorities" for the National Lottery, unveiled this week, certainly break new ground in one respect: when was the last time that a party went into an election touting a pledge to *remove money* from the arts?

But, just for the hell of it, let's pretend that there *are* votes in the arts. Let's look back at the past 18 years under the Tories. Have the good times rolled, or has it been Nightmare in Yobville Manor? Are we kinder to thespians and minor poets than we were in 1979, or have we been through a dark night of philistine pillage?

Well, by spooky coincidence 1979 was the year in which I first inflicted my preposterous views about "the arts scene" on innocent readers. I looked up some old articles this week, and you know what? If I changed the odd name here and there I could recycle most of them today, and nobody except my mother would know.

Back then, we were searching for a solution to the problem of London's five symphony orchestras. Approximately 47 solutions later, London still has five orchestras. We were worrying about glossy musicals by Lloyd Webber and others crowding serious drama out of the West End. So guess which shock-horror arts story was in the papers this week?

What else? Theatre directors were predicting the imminent collapse of regional drama. English National Opera and the Royal Opera were taking turns to be in turmoil. Greece wanted its marbles back. British film producers wanted tax breaks. And we were all apparently being depraved beyond redemption by screen violence and sex.

Some things never change. But what has expanded beyond all recognition is the diversity of our cultural life. You can praise the Tories for this, or you can claim that most of the developments would have happened whoever was running the country. But what you can't do is ignore the implications of this cultural Big Bang. Not if you want to devise a coherent arts policy for the 21st century.

The fact is that, since 1979, leisure choice has been expanded a hundredfold. That's good. But consequently the available punters are being pulled in a hundred new directions. So is the available subsidy. Without proper adjustment, that could be disastrous.

Consider the changes. In 1979 we had only three TV channels. No satellite. Video had arrived, but barely. No ordinary home had a computer. The Internet was but a twinkle in an anorak's eye. Niche radio, such as Classic FM, hadn't been invented. Britain had no multiplex cinemas or theme parks.

The Barbican Centre hadn't opened; nor had the new concert halls and galleries now boasted by Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Belfast and many other cities. And Britain's now-flourishing Caribbean and Asian arts scene hardly existed.

In 1979, then, the arts could still be narrowly defined. They could be targeted through relatively few outlets at a sizeable band of the population who still shared the same cultural references. And they faced much less competition.

The Tories didn't increase subsidy to help the arts compete in the brash new world. But they did pull off a couple of useful conjuring tricks. They put political muscle behind the idea of corporate sponsorship — though they never gave sponsors the tax concessions that they get in America.

And of course they inaugurated the lottery. To its supporters it seemed like a painless way, even a "fun" way, to pay for culture. But something went wrong. Somebody (the buck-passing has been wondrous to behold) decided that lottery money could only pay for buildings, not people. In two years it has bankrolled enough pleasure domes to satisfy a thousand Kubla Khans in a hundred Xanadus. Meanwhile, performing ensembles have withered for want of a few thousand quid. The spectacle has left the public bothered and bewildered, but definitely not bewitched. No wonder that Labour senses a vote-winner if it promises to plunder the lottery for homework clubs and designer health-centres.

Yet ultimately the arts are not about finding cash, whether from Taxpayers Frustrated or Gamblers Anonymous. They are about finding people. And this is exactly what they haven't been doing these past 18 years. People have been slipping into comfy relationships with their TVs, computers, video shops, theme parks, bowling alleys. Many have lost their appetite for cultural challenge. Many never had their appetite aroused in the first place.

That is not primarily the fault of the arts world, though the recent desperate scramble to establish "outreach" projects, "arts for everyone" schemes, "pay what you can" nights and "vouchers for teenagers" does smack of guilt. No, the problem lies deep in our education system. Learning to enjoy art is a bit like learning to swim: if you don't do it early in life, the fear of drowning becomes overwhelming. But the arts are now horribly downgraded in our state education system. The curriculum marginalises them. Peripatetic music teaching has been slashed. Head teachers, fretting about managing their own budgets, no longer regard theatre trips as feasible, or even valuable.

It's all very sad. A generation is being alienated from serious culture before it reaches voting age. For that piece of centralised dumbing-down you must blame the Tories. But for not having a credible plan to reverse the trend you have to despise Labour too. Not much of a choice on Thursday, then. But as we agreed a thousand words ago, there are no votes in the arts. Now I begin to see why.

THEATRE: What can you do on May 1 apart from the obvious? **Daniel Rosenthal** finds some options. Plus review

Right on, not right-on

Waiting to Inhale
Theatre Royal,
Stratford East

GEOFF SCHUMANN, a former school teacher, is big, black and very funny. His revue-style show, *Waiting to Inhale*, is a shameless inversion of Whitney Houston's women-bitching-about-men movie (not to mention Teri Macmillan's novel), *Waiting to Exhale*.

On a stage dominated by a large zebra-skinned sofa, Schumann and his brassy cast (Sandra Bee, Ninia Benjamin and Wayne Rollins) pose such indelicate questions as "why do men lie?" In a series of sketches in which men behave badly with women, Schumann cheekily suggests that men are always getting the rough end of the stick. Butter doesn't just melt, it dribbles down his chin and all over his powder-blue tent of a shirt.

Schumann's genius is that he divides his audience like a cheese slice. Having incited the males in the auditorium to call him "leader", à la Gary Glitter, he dips into his assortment of Benny Hill-type wigs and conjures up those loaded moments in all relationships: when boy meets girl, why girl should have sex with boy, etc. Because of his bulk and hopelessly see-through patter, the women score heavily, even as the males in the audience cheer his unsubtle logic.

Somehow it doesn't matter that Schumann is a hopeless actor (his cast outstrips him by miles): it fits neatly with his hopeless sexual dissembling. Sometimes, as in his Barry White routine, he doesn't even bother to tart up the sexism at all. Unbuttoning his vast shirt and threatening to flash his bottom, he ogles a terrified young girl in the audience. I've never seen a revue audience so keen to give an actor a handbagging.

The pay-off is that Schumann gets an awful lot more rope to work with. In fact, an entire new character. The cast had more barracking than they knew what to do with. "It's just a play," someone shouted deep in the second half. But everyone knew it had long since ceased to be that. Enjoy.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Curtain up on election night

May 1 will be a day of huge significance for the nation, heralding an event which thousands have been awaiting for years. I refer, of course, to the British stage debut of Emmanuelle Béart, star of *Manon des Sources* and *Mission: Impossible*.

While Peter Snow applies the last few drops of oil to his swingometer, Béart will be preparing for the first of three performances (in French, with surtitles) of Strindberg's *Playing With Fire* at the Nottingham Playhouse. One of France's most beautiful actresses playing Kerstin, a manipulative Swedish adulteress, in a production from the acclaimed Swiss director Luc Bondy — enough, surely, to entice all but the most Eurosceptic theatregoer away from wall-to-wall TV punditry.

Béart's visit was scheduled months ago, so the clash with the election is merely coincidence for the Playhouse's box office. But other venues are wooing voters away from campaign coverage with the theatrical equivalent of tax cuts.

As soon as John Major had named the day, the Bristol Old Vic sent out a mailshot announcing that its box office staff were suffering from "election fever" and would give a discount of up to £16 to anyone buying advance tickets for both *A Taste of Honey* and *The Amen Corner*. "We thought it would give people a good reason to escape from the campaign," says press manager Jane Ellis. "The response was excellent."

At the Tricycle in north London, all seats for the May 1 performance of *The Mai*, Marina Carr's award-winning play about seven Irish women, will cost £2, compared to the normal £7.50-£13. "Read my lips," announces Nicholas Kent, the Tricycle's artistic director. "We will save every member of the audience a minimum of £5.50 — that's more than any politician can guarantee."

An "Election Week Special" at the Royal Court will knock £3 off £18 seats for Ayub Khan-Din's *East is East* on April 29 and 30, and on May 1 all tickets will cost £5. "People somehow feel obliged to watch TV from six o'clock on election night, waiting and waiting for something to happen," says Jess Cleverly, the Court's marketing manager. "We're saying 'Have an enjoyable evening out and you can still be home in time for the first result.'"

> ‘We're like another bunch of jokers I could mention’

Performers planning special election night shows (but no discounts) in London include the *News Revue* team at the Canal Café Theatre. "We couldn't miss an opportunity like this," says its director, Richard Hurst. "*News Revue* has been going since 1979 — like another bunch of jokers I could mention."

Captained by Lee Hurst, a team of eight stand-ups will keep the political gags coming from 11.30pm until "very, very late" in the Comedy Store. At the Riba Architecture Centre, RalfRalf (aka brothers Barnaby and Jonathan Stone) will "celebrate the end of six weeks of politicking" with a one-off version of their award-winning satire, *The Summit*.

Those who find actors playing MPs preferable to the real thing can choose from four plays which all provide a historical spin on timeless political issues. In Manchester on May 1, the Royal Exchange has Paul Godfrey's *The Candidate*, which charts the frantic run-up to a provincial polling day in late 19th-century France; while the Opera House hosts Peter Hall's production of *An Ideal Husband*, with Wilde's 1890s Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs facing ruin over an insider trading scandal.

Prettier than Paxman: French actress Emmanuelle Béart is one election-night distraction, making her British stage debut in Sheffield

In London, the Old Vic repertory includes a May 1 matinee of Harley Granville Barker's tale of Edwardian sleaze and suicide among the political classes, *Waste* (also directed by Hall). Then stroll across Waterloo Bridge after the final curtain and you will reach the Aldwych in plenty of time for Stephen Churchett's fine new play, *Tom and Clem*, which brings together the radical Labour MP, Tom Driberg, and Clement Attlee at Potsdam in the aftermath of the latter's 1945 landslide election victory.

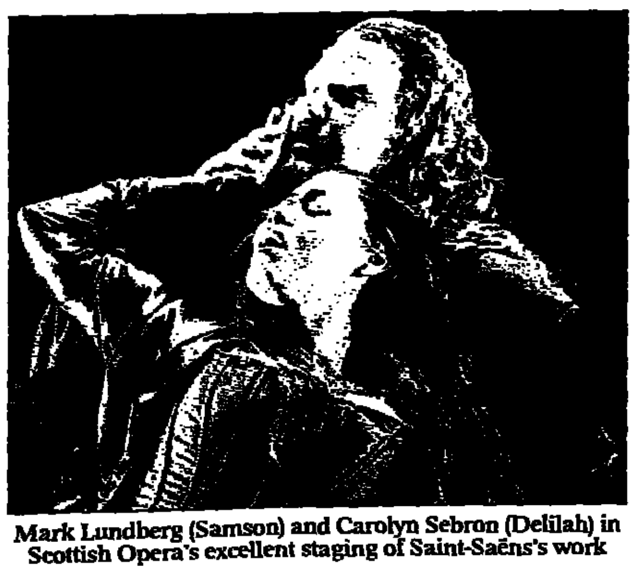
At last week's press night, when one character explained that she had just voted Labour for the first time because "the Tories haven't delivered the goods after all these years", the audience burst into warm applause. Just imagine what the reaction might be next Thursday night.

● *The first ten people who call at the Royal Exchange's Albert Square box office on May 1 carrying that day's copy of* The Times *can collect a pair of free tickets for* The Candidate *(subject to availability). Tricycle 0171-328 1000; Royal Court 0171-565 5000; Canal Café 0171-289 6054; RIBA 0171-631 0460; Comedy Store 01426 914433; Manchester Opera House 0161-242 2509; Royal Exchange 0161-833 9833; Old Vic 0171-928 7616; Aldwych 0171-416 6007.*

Miles better than run of DeMille

OPERA

Samson et Dalila
Glasgow



Mark Lundberg (Samson) and Carolyn Sebron (Delilah) in Scottish Opera's excellent staging of Saint-Saëns's work

If Scottish Opera is the company most under threat in these islands, then a success like their first-ever staging of Saint-Saëns's opera should do their morale — and their reputation — a power of good. It's an ideal work with which to display the prowess of orchestra and chorus, and under the idiomatic guidance of the French conductor Frédéric Chaslin both were on sterling form, especially the latter, from their first pianissimo "Dieu!", sung flat on their backs both in darkness and in unison.

As with last year's *Idomeneo*, a shortage of funds resulted in a nice balance of virtue and necessity at the Theatre Royal. The designer Antony McDonald also directed. His plain, skewed surfaces brought few surprises, and at times seemed almost too austere for a piece usually given the full Cecil B. DeMille treatment. Delilah's residence in the Valley of Soreck did not look inviting — she appeared to live under a slab of concrete — but once the lighting designer Wolfgang Göbbel got to work with his washes of indigo and wine, it became the most seductive of love-nests.

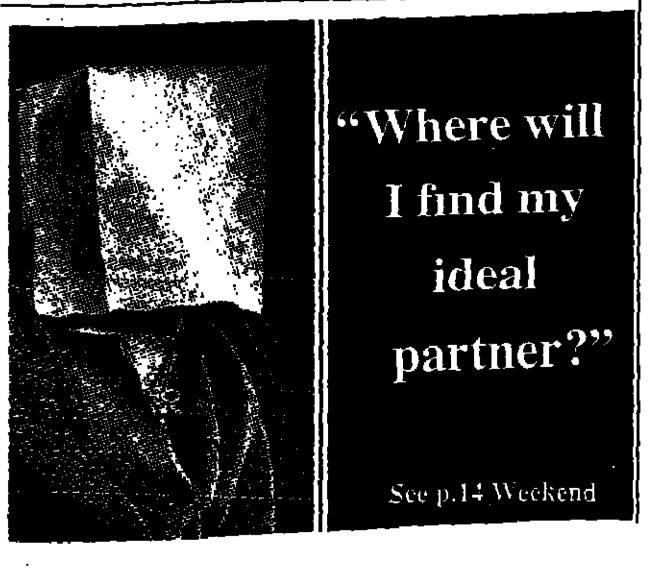
As director, McDonald gently and not-too-specifically updated the action to the time of the Dreyfus Affair, with Abimelech (Christopher Purves) in French army uniform mocking the Hebrews' prayer rituals and deserving everything he got. The company cannot afford dancers, so the Bacchanale was performed by the chorus as a sort of gluttony ritual, complete with hot towels being handed out (as in business class) before they got down to some serious Jew-baiting. The effect was perfectly horrible, and the way the men were on collars and leads suggested that the Philistines had problems quite apart from being unsound on the arts.

The production, sung in clear French, was imaginatively cast, with two young Americans making their debuts in the title roles. Mark Lundberg, a big man with a big voice, was formerly a baritone and sounds like it. He has retained the weight in his lower register and his new top is fully integrated, easy and unforced, and while he is not the most expressive of actors, he delivered *Vois ma misère* with the soul-searing intensity of a Jon Vickers.

Carolyn Sebron's sumptuous, even mezzo was ideal for Delilah. Her still, statuesque presence was well used by McDonald and together with Lundberg (and Chaslin) she made *Softly awakes my heart just what it is* — one of the sexiest love duets in all opera. Robert Hayward, got up as Rasputin rather than an Archbishop of Paris, made a hair-raisingly barmy high priest, every word of his "final solution" aria spat out with crazed venom. A thoroughly invigorating evening.

RODNEY MILNES

Federico García Lorca's
Doña Rosita the spinster
a poem in various gardens with scenes of song and dance
in a new version by Peter Oswald
direction Phyllida Lloyd
design Anthony Ward
cast includes:
Eleanor Bron
Kathryn Hunter
Celia Imrie
Phoebe Nicholls
Clive Swift
FIRST MAJOR LONDON PRODUCTION
Until 7 June
Mon - Sat 7.30pm, Sat mat 3pm
Box Office
0171 359 4404
Almeida Theatre
Almeida St, London N1
http://www.almeida.co.uk
LONDON ARTS BOARD
Registered Charity



"Where will I find my ideal partner?"
See p.14 Weekend

Education	☒
Conservative	☐
Labour	☐
Liberal Democrat	☐

They all say education is top of their agenda.
But they want your vote.
Our passion for education isn't confined to a manifesto.
It's our job.
ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS AND LECTURERS
To receive details of ATL's 'new deal' for education, please call 0171 930 6441.
http://www.atl.org.uk
ATL

Children of the Puffin age, read on

Let's save Kaye Webb's legacy for posterity, says **Valerie Grove**

I have a lingering memory of Kaye Webb, doyenne of Puffin Books and founder of the Puffin Club, on her 80th birthday, surrounded by cards, letters from children, carefully written and drawn by them for "the Fattest Puffin". Her dynamism was responsible for turning on three generations of children to the pleasures of reading — through the Puffin Club's magazine, competitions and outings. Many writers now in middle age can thank Puffins for their literary background.

Kaye's own incomparable library of children's literature, which lined the walls of her sunny Little Venice flat until her death last year, is now at Sotheby's awaiting an auction to be held on May 22 and 23. Kate and John, the twin children of Kaye and her third husband, the cartoonist Ronald Searle, do not want their mother's relics to be broken up piecemeal and scattered. So Sotheby's has catalogued everything — the books, notebooks, Puffin memorabilia, drawings, club magazines and correspondence with writers such as Robert Graves, Max Beerbohm, John Betjeman, Christopher Fry, Laurie Lee, Patrick Campbell (who was in love with her) — as a single lot (guide price, a modest £15,000-£20,000). It also includes much from her days as assistant editor of the literary journal *Lilliput* (where she discovered Ronald Searle) and the *Young Elizabethan Magazine* (which first published Nigel Molesworth). A separate lot contains her correspondence with Walter de la Mare, the Poet Laureate: Kaye's English master at school had sent him a poem of hers, which he said showed "exceptional promise". When he was 80 and bedridden, she finally met de la Mare and thereafter went to have tea with him every Wednesday until he died.

There are letters from noteworthy children's authors: Eleanor Farjeon — "I like your books and I like your company" — John Masefield, Joan Aiken, H.E. Bates, Nina Bawden, Leon Garfield, Dodie Smith, Rumer Godden and, of course, Roald Dahl. Dahl became a mainstay of the Puffin empire, and I have a happy memory of my eldest daughter's name being picked from a hat when she was seven to go on a Puffin coach trip to Dahl's house, where he showed the children his gypsy caravan, his writing hut and his sandals and gave everyone a large bag of chocolates. Such events made authors and their work accessible. Every year at the Puffin exhibition, the queue for signed copies by Roald Dahl and his illustrator Quentin Blake would stretch around the block.

"It is never cheek to ask me to sign books," as Roald Dahl wrote to Kaye Webb in 1985, "nor is it a bother. The bother comes when people stop asking me to sign them."

Obviously Kaye Webb's archive is a treasure that should remain in this country. But where? America is already well ahead of us in establishing collections of children's literature: there is one at the University of Southern Mississippi, one in Minnesota and another private collection housed at Princeton. It would be sad if the Puffin Club memorabilia, a native British phenomenon, valued and loved by many parents and children, should go to America. But we have as yet no children's literature collection in this country, apart from small pockets such as Elfrida Vipont's bequest at Manchester University. (And Roald Dahl's family plans to open a Dahl memorial centre at Great Missenden, which would bring families flocking.)

So the proposed Centre for the Children's Book at Newcastle-upon-Tyne will be welcomed by schools, academics, parents and libraries. At least 60 British authors and illustrators have already agreed to donate manuscripts, illustrations etc. Both Newcastle and Gateshead's councils are ready to provide sites on the Tyne. The museum is the brainchild of Elizabeth Hammill, who runs the children's book department of Waterstone's in Newcastle. She is an Anglophile American, brought up on Arthur Ransome, who has lived in Britain since 1971, is married to an English academic and has raised two sons (one ex-Oxford, one still at Cambridge) on Puffin books. Waterstone's has endorsed her project by allowing Mrs Hammill to lend her expertise during a year's leave of absence starting in May. The City of Newcastle has seconded a full-time staffer to help, and Brian Alderson, for many years children's books editor at *The Times*, is on the embryonic museum's accessions committee.

> It would be sad if the Puffin Club memorabilia were to leave Britain

The problem for the museum on the Tyne, which now exists in all but fact, is that as yet it has no funds. Mrs Hammill is keen to acquire the Kaye Webb collection, which would give their museum a terrific start. They have applied for lottery money from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, and also to the Friends of the British Library; if they succeed they will be able to bid on May 22. I hope so: our literary heritage needs preserving on its home ground.

In 1978, Kaye had the idea of filling a lead-lined time capsule, buried under a flowering cherry tree near Heathrow, with 176 children's books, each inscribed with a message from the author, to be opened by the guardians' grandchildren in 100 years. Noel Streatfield wrote inside *Ballet Shoes*: "Imagine: this was written for you by an author old enough to remember Queen Victoria's coffin drawn by a steam train." By 1994, Kaye realised that contemporary children's computer-dominated lives had already changed so much, the 100-year time span might be fanciful: in 2078, would anyone still read books? As Geoffrey Trease wrote in the time capsule: "One thing we much enjoyed was called a book. Don't know what that was? Here, have a look."

For us, the drought is bad enough; for our birds, it is a matter of life and death, says **Simon Barnes**

Rain, wing and prayer

We don't appreciate rain in this country. This is a cold, damp island, the winter wearies our bones, and in the long, dark days we ache for the sun. Lovely spring day, we say now, as another remorselessly sunny day leeches the life from the land. Our love of the sun blinds us to the facts of life.

The rain it raineth every day, says the rueful song in *Twelfth Night*. Isn't it a lovely day — to be caught in the rain, sang Fred Astaire, but he intended delicious irony. God can't help the state I'm in, down Rain Street, sang Shane McGowan of the Pogues in a song of desperation.

Sun is the bringer of life, the spark that lights the green touchpaper and brings us spring. Each shower of rain is a little death: rotten morning. Brighter later? Hope so! Our climate forces such an understanding on us, just as in Africa, they long for rain and relief from the killing sun. In Britain, birds sing when the sun comes out; in Africa they sing when the sun goes in.

But in both places, the equation remains the same: sun plus water equals life. The order and proportions are different, that is all. Sun and water are both essential for the process of renewal. And the fact is that in this country, as one nice day follows another, we are in a state of looming disaster. Another pejorative term for nice weather is drought.

Killer stat: the 24-month period from April 1995 has been the driest for more than 200 years. This is a serious matter: for the processes of life are beginning to stop. We can tell this by looking at the clearest indicators of the health of any environment in our world: birds.

Birds are visual and aural creatures like ourselves; like ourselves they express themselves in colour and song. We understand birds better than we do our own class of mammals; that is why birds can explain for us the nature of the places we share. And they are telling us that the land is in trouble. In particular, the South East is in trouble: some parts have had no rain at all in a month whose leitmotif is the sound of showers.

There is concern for common birds such as the blackbird and song thrush. Well, have you ever tried digging your beak into solid concrete? The swards of the South East are as hard as cobbled streets, for there has been no rain to soften them. And even if a thrush could hammer like a woodpecker — or, rather, like a pneumatic drill — it would do no good, because the worms he seeks cannot live in baked concrete, and must tunnel down to where there is still some vestige of damp. Adult birds can survive, because they know how: but the young will have no easy options and are likely to die.

An ultra-conservative tactical ploy in this battle of life is not to breed at all. Breeding is hugely expensive. Where there is little food available and it costs too much in energy terms to collect it, the brood will fail. So don't even start. Try to survive for another spring, and seek to propagate your genes in easier conditions.

There is increasing evidence that this is happening to wetland birds. On nature reserves run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, where the habitat is deliberately manipulated to encourage breeding birds, there are ominous signs. The number of birds in these few wet areas, in which water levels are managed in bird-friendly fashion, has risen dramatically. There is nowhere else for the birds to go: the reserves are oases in a concrete-hard desert. There is no other wet grassland available. What they have is too crowded, there is too much competition for dwindling resources. Preliminary signs are that some birds have nested and abandoned: others have not even started.

Kingfishers and herons are also finding trouble. When ponds, rivers and streams start to dry out and water quality falls, it is bad news for fish, and bad news for fish-eaters. House martins, who fly in from Africa to feed on the annual boon of aerial plankton, are in a different kind of trouble. They build themselves little mud huts under the eaves of houses: but this year there is no mud. Building in concrete is beyond them. One wild bird food company is offering best quality mud for sale: leave a sachet out for your martins.

It is a dire situation. It is also that rare thing, an ecological disaster that we don't have to feel guilty about: drought is, if you like, an act of God. But human control of natural resources is a fact of life, and there are some points we must take on board. Efficient use of water should be a higher priority than profit: some water companies lose four gallons out of every ten from leaks. Why don't they repair customers' leaks for free, and offer incentives to install water-efficient devices?

And individuals can certainly contribute. A lawn sprinkler uses as much water in a hour as a family of four uses in two days. Rational use of domestic water is environmentally very sound. It is all an aspect of the most dangerous ecological misunderstanding of them all: the Bottomless Bucket. The belief that nature has a limitless supply of everything. Food, water, minerals, forests, oceans, mammals, birds and fish. Profligate use of natural resources — in this case water — leads to disaster: first for birds, and, in the long-term, for us all.

There is also a very important, age-old contribution that can be made by everyone, as important a piece of eco-warriorship as any that could be contrived. Pray for rain.

My own hope is that the mere writing of this piece will cause the heavens to open. After all, I have served my time as a rain god. I have visited the Kalahari and found it filled with frogs and ducks after the best rainfall for two generations. I once visited the driest area of western Europe, the Spanish steppes, and got caught in a downpour then stuck in the mud. Had to tear up armfuls of precious habitat and ram it under the wheels.

Nor has my touch deserted me. Just as I completed these words, the first drops of rain in a month began to fall. It isn't enough, and it doesn't alter a word of what I have said. But, like the old joke about the politician buried up to his neck in sand, it's a good start.

The case of the two Blairs

What does the party's conscience think of the cynical disciplinarian?

Simon Jenkins

So we have come at last to the Reichenbach Falls. Watson has departed. The note has been written. Holmes and Moriarty face each other across the rope bridge, while beneath them the water tumbles into a terrible cauldron.

No, they are not John Major and Tony Blair. One is indeed Mr Blair, clad in a dark suit and tie and with a maniacal grin. But the other wears a purple shirt and bouffant hair. It is none other than Mr Blair again. The two lock arms. They totter and the bridge sways. Grins become grimaces. What feud can have produced this nightmare apparition?

The answer, says Watson, was more awesome than the Baskerville Hound, more fiendish than the Speckled Band. It was Labour in Pursuit of Power. The past month has witnessed the most sustained act of political discipline ever staged in peacetime Britain. A party, a mass movement, an entire political generation, has been chloroformed. Men and women accustomed to the rough and tumble of the hustings have been silenced. Across the land, the faithful have swallowed the purple capsule and been told to lie down and await instructions.

How else to explain the silence of the wolves, of Ken Livingstone, Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn, Dennis Skinner? How strange that the garrulous Diane Abbott should hide in her office rather than face a simple question from Matthew Parris. She could only stammer out a controversial "Tony Blair walks on water". Nobody promises anything except "better". The erstwhile John Prescott, the erstwhile Robin Cook, the erstwhile Clare Short are behaving not as politicians running for office but as Moonies. Odd things happen in the night. Labour candidates considered impure, such as noble John Gilbert, "disappear", to be replaced by creatures beamed down from Mandelsonia.

I watched last week as Mr Blair ranted and bored an audience for 20 minutes. He said nothing. He might as well have walked up and down the stage in a saffron robe, banging a tambourine and chanting "hare change, hare difference, hare deserves better, hare newness". I have listened to political speeches all my life. This was premier cru garbage. So what is going on?

The answer, I am told from on high, is a class act double bluff. I must not be taken in by my not being taken in. The game is clear and, if opinion polls mean a blind thing, it is working to plan. The Labour order of battle for this election was simple, to say nothing of substance, for whenever a Labour politician speaks something of substance, the voters run for the door. Last December the Shadow Cabinet ordered their programme takeaway from the Tory Treasury and left it at that. There would be no more taxes and, therefore, no more spending. For every possibly meaningful adjective there would be an instant antidote. Tough but tender. Radical but centrist. Change, but continuity. If there are any more specific ideas in new Labour's head, they are not to be revealed. These people may believe in open government, but not in open Opposition.

I am told further that the discipline of vacuity would be Labour' s final test before office. It would try the party's loyalty to near destruction and is meant to do so. To the Blair team this campaign is the climax of the great electability project. Mr Blair has argued, reasonably, that his reform of Labour was an indication of his capacity for radical government. During that struggle, he tore into his foes and laid bare his ideals, or at least his ambitions. Today, different tasks call for different methods. Mr Blair has bent his party to his will, to give it the chance of power. If it really wants to win, it must accept a campaign against the Tories in which absolutely nothing remotely Labour must be pledged. The message is no message. The line to take is a row of asterisks.

I understand all this. Discipline is a real political virtue. It suggests, as is intended, that Mr Blair in government will drive hard and not suffer Mr Major's troubles. He has styled himself strong in the only way that an Opposition leader can, in his mastery of his party. He has never run anything but himself. That is not his fault and he has run himself well.

Yet what of the other Mr Blair, the one in the purple shirt? I assume — I hope — he has found all this discipline as irksome as his colleagues. I like to think that he can feel the emptiness of his words, that behind all the waffle about values there are values, behind the waffle about radicalism there is radicalism. If the man in the dark suit is the necessary disciplinarian, the man in the purple shirt is presumably intended as the necessary conscience.

I do not expect Mr Blair to be a socialist, or a Croslandite public sector junkie. But I cannot see anything in the purple shirt that I recognise as "left-wing", such as equality in education, liberalism in penal policy, a leader less bossy than the Tories, less centralist, less vicious towards social misfits. Would Mr Blair send fewer people to prison, be more liberal on drugs, revive local taxation? From what I know of Mr Blair, the answer is probably yes, but it is a private yes. Ideology is "off message", so is policy, so are concrete nouns. Mr Blair is a lawyer who believes in the right to silence.

To watch Mr Blair's supporters at present is to observe agony emerging from ecstasy. They know that they are witnessing the most brutally cynical campaign to which Labour has ever put its name. From the working men's clubs of Accrington to the Garrick Club bar, Blairites have the nervous uncertainty of girls in the afterglow of love. The movement of the mouth does not quite match the eyes. It was marvellous at first, but what happens next? Above all, what did that man really mean?

We do not know. We have no inkling of what this post-Labour party — which Mr Blair on Thursday night claimed to be his personal creation — would do in office, or do that is different from the present Government. We know only that there is a conspiracy not to tell us and, more ominous, we know why the conspiracy exists. It exists from a fear that if the electorate was indeed told what Labour might do, it would not vote for it.

Mr Blair may be strong and is certainly disciplined. But he is not politically bold. He is no Lady Thatcher, telling the electorate what it ought to hear rather than what he thinks it wants to hear. If I have to look for a parallel as Labour leader, I would find it in Harold Wilson in the early Sixties. Wilson, too, bent his party to his will. He, too, ran an election on the basis of personal leadership and against what was then old Labour. The language of newness and the promise of change riddled his speeches. Wilson had Keir Hardie's values but, like Mr Blair, new ideas on how to implement them. Wilson also struggled with Wilson at socialism's Reichenbach Falls. It is often forgotten how completely he (or they) revolutionised the image of Labour in 1963-64. After a decade of disaster, Labour won four general elections in ten years.

The battle between the Blairs is nothing new. New Labour's electability project has been different in degree from previous Labour campaigns, but not different in kind. Political leadership is always Manichean, selfish versus selfless, expedient versus sincere, short-term versus long. The battle continues until it ends, as do most political careers, in some sort of mess. The metaphor holds. As Dr Watson reflected: "There deep down in that dreadful cauldron of swirling water and seething foam will lie for all time the most dangerous criminal and the foremost champion of the law of their generation."

But I jump too far ahead. Our two heroes are still there on the bridge. Their feet are firmly planted. My impression is that they have yet to draw blood.

Does the real Blair wear a dark suit or a purple shirt? He is a lawyer who believes in the right to silence

---

THE TIMES

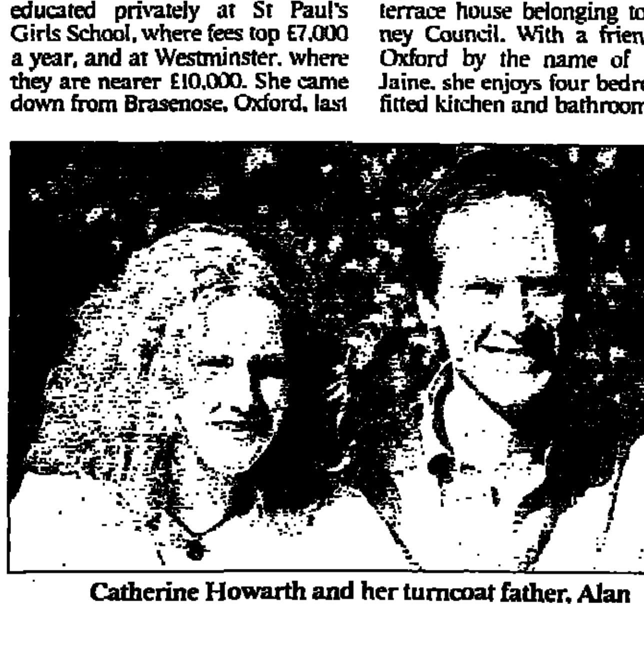
DIARY

House rules

THE DAUGHTER of Alan Howarth, the former Conservative MP who defected to Labour last year, is living among a bunch of well-to-do squatters which his adopted party has spent the past 12 years trying to evict.

Catherine Howarth, 23, was educated privately at St Paul's Girls School, where fees top £7,000 a year, and at Westminster, where they are nearer £10,000. She came down from Brasenose, Oxford, last year with a degree in history and is now a student at the London School of Economics.

While her mother Gillian, who is separated from Howarth, lives in a six-bedroom mansion near Hyde Park in Bayswater, Catherine squats rent free in a Victorian terrace house belonging to Hackney Council. With a friend from Oxford by the name of Harriet Jaine, she enjoys four bedrooms, a fitted kitchen and bathroom.



Catherine Howarth and her turncoat father, Alan

Hackney bought a number of properties on her street, London Lane, 12 years ago, hoping to develop them into ateliers for small businesses, thereby generating more than 300 jobs in the area. When the council turned their backs, squatters moved in. Catherine and her Oxford friend are but the latest to swell their ranks.

Lawyers have been hired to evict the posh parasites, costing several thousands of pounds. "Labour has always taken a very firm view on squatting," said the council. "It is against every principle of socialism. Those who are losing out here are the genuinely poor and unemployed." Yesterday, neither Catherine nor her father was available for comment.

● *A memo from the editor of* The Sun, *Stuart Higgins, has been sent out to all staff at the paper which is supporting Labour. "Dear all," it reads. "To mark this historic election, I am formally inviting all staff to wear evening dress from eight o' clock on Thursday evening, May 1. This, of course, is not compulsory, but red roses will be provided for everyone. Ladies are welcome to select attire of their choice in keeping with this landmark day in our great country."*

That's life

THE LATEST money-spinning exercise being perpetrated by the frightful Winnie Mandela is to hawk around her life story for British television. She has been trying to offer both the BBC and others the story for £500,000 — to no avail.

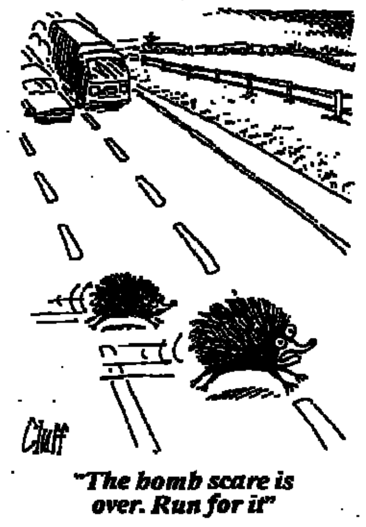
Although she hasn't given up on the television idea, she is now working harder than ever at her other inspirational fund-generator, known as the "garden project". Winnie, South Africa's Imelda Marcos sells bottles of soil from a garden she once shared with President Mandela for £7 each.

Down and out

THE MOST despised statues in London are being demolished today. The vulgar 8ft-high depictions of nine Greek muses which have "graced" the entrance to the Barbican Centre for more than two years are at last being pulled down on the instructions of John Tusa, the centre's managing director.

Staff are delighted that these monstrosities are disappearing, for they are the final vestiges of Tusa's predecessor, Baroness Detta O' Cathain.

Tusa was diplomacy itself yesterday. "The nine muses were a genuine attempt to create a warmer, more inviting entrance to the Centre," he said. "However the muses have not succeeded."



"The bomb scare is over. Run for it"

Signing off

HEMMED in by autograph hunters, Virginia Bottomley discovered life as a superstar when she canvassed in Peter Mandelson's Hartlepool the other day.

She was accompanying the local Conservative candidate Michael Horsley around the town when the pair were suddenly besieged by youngsters. She gladly offered her signature only to discover that the lads were after Horsley, not her — they thought he was Newcastle's £15 million striker Alan Shearer.

● *Explicit dress instructions have been sent out for the private view of* The Open Sea, *by sculptor Andrew Sabin, at the Henry Moore Studio, Dean Clough in Halifax. The installation resembles a cattle-grid on stilts and viewers can either walk across it or underneath it. For fear of skirt-peekers, everbody has been advised to wear trousers.*

In the swim

WHILE Stella McCartney prepares to add her student touch to the French fashion house Chloe, down in Battersea another young British stitcher is cornering the market in swimming costumes. The 27-year-old designer Serena Momberg has been approached to supply beachwear for the next Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*.

Bond age: Serena Momberg

Her Lycra numbers could be worn by the next Bond girl, Teri Hatcher, better known as Superman's Lois Lane. "It's not finalised yet," she says, "but halter-neck cossies are in."

P·H·S

BELOW THE BELT

Labour will regret its late electioneering on pensions

The Opposition has found it hard to reach a fixed position on pension reform. When Peter Lilley first produced his proposals, Harriet Harman described them as a "a really chilling prospect for hard-working families which would certainly spell the end of the basic state pension". Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, recognising that any responsible government would have to do something similar, took a more positive tack. The Labour leader wrote on the opposite page that the plans were a "bold" contribution that would "help whoever forms the next government to conduct the debate more sensibly". Frank Field, then wrote that "Labour should move decisively to claim Peter Lilley's inheritance" and it was reported that his article, for *The Daily Telegraph*, had been edited by Labour campaign managers to remove excess enthusiasm. This week Labour has returned to the Harman approach, adding to it statements which it knows to be false about the Tory threat to the basic state pension.

John Major was personally outraged by this attack. As he made clear in his interview with *The Times*, the commitment to the welfare state is a key part of what he sees as his political spirit and legacy. Although the Tory election machine is no stranger to the dubious allegation, the £12 billion black hole and the double-whammie on tax, for the Prime Minister this new charge was "contemptible" and definitely below the belt.

Labour's assertion that the Conservatives plan to abolish the basic state pension is an absolute lie. It is unedifying to watch Mr Blair and his crew peddling their falsehoods about pensions. These Labour lies are particularly uncomfortable from a Labour leader who has tried to build his reputation on trust and decency. That does not sit easily beside the tactic of terrifying pensioners.

No existing pensioners will lose their basic state pension under the Tory plans. Officially, no one over about 25 will do so — though Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, has left open the option of extending the scheme to people older than their early twenties. Even those in the new scheme will have their pension levels guaranteed by the government. They will be at least as high as the current state pension uprated in line with prices. If the private pensions taken out by the new generation turn out to be lower, the State will top them up. In other words, the basic pension is not being abolished: it is being replaced, by an alternative that could be worth more, but will not be worth less.

It is possible for Labour to question whether a government in 2040, when the next generation retires, will abide by a guarantee given today by Mr Lilley. No government can bind its successors. But that is a political danger that applies to any long-term pension plan. It is also right for Labour to test the financial strengths or weaknesses of the Conservatives' plans. That is where its arguments have some force.

Mr Lilley's package is a far-reaching attempt to reform British pensions so that, instead of being paid by current workers, they are saved by individuals for their own retirement. But it is also expensive, costing some £7 billion a year at its peak, which comes just at the time when taxpayers will also have to be digging into their pockets to support the pensions and long-term care for those retiring between 2020 and 2040.

The Government claims that these costs can be "taken in our stride", an attitude that it would not take well from Labour. If the stock markets suffered some "melt-down" and all pensioners had to be topped up by the Treasury, how could the Government afford it? Will the Treasury be putting money aside to cover this possibility? And what will be the implications for public accounting of such an open-ended government guarantee?

These are legitimate questions to be asked of a policy that is right in principle but still poorly understood. Yesterday's verbal abuse will soon be forgotten. The longer lasting aspect will be that Labour has made it harder for itself to undertake in government what it knows in opposition to be necessary.

SPRINGTIME IN PARIS

An *entente improbable* between sceptics and communists?

The election campaign in France already has all the aspects familiar to ballot-fatigued Britain. The party leaders have hurled insults at each other and cannot agree terms for a televised debate. Accusations of scandal and misuse of office abound. *Le coq* has not made an appearance, but that is surely a matter of time. Those who booked a holiday in Paris to avoid saturation politics at home may now be less confident of their decision.

Jacques Chirac should be cautious as well. He called this contest despite a sluggish economy and a 60 per cent disapproval rating in the opinion polls. National Assembly battles are unpredictable creatures. On the initial ballot only those few candidates who exceed half the vote are elected. On the second ballot, contenders who have claimed at least one-eighth of support the first time fight it out. The parties of Left and Right normally seek arrangements among each other to avoid a division of their final vote. Whether or not they succeed usually determines the outcome.

The President based his gamble on three assumptions. The first is that the slow recovery France has seen will produce dividends at the polls. The second is that, while the two parties of the mainstream Right are broadly united, the Socialists and Communists will prove incapable of an effective electoral pact. Finally, M Chirac believes that the majority of those who align with either the National Front or the Eurosceptic Movement for France in the opening round will return to his camp in the decisive contest.

These assumptions could be undone by the issue — monetary union — that M Chirac has placed at the centre of his campaign. The voters know that a budget based on spending cuts would follow the Right's re-election. Without such measures France would not meet the Maastricht criteria. A package that might destroy economic growth and boost unemployment may prove an unattractive offer.

Disharmony on the Left stems from different attitudes to the single currency. The Socialists enthused for the euro under François Mitterrand and still claim to do so in principle. But they oppose further austerity to achieve it in practice. The Communists reject EMU and would introduce a referendum on the matter. An impressive Communist showing on the first ballot would oblige the Socialists to move in their direction or accept defeat. They may choose to compromise principles to seize power. Supporters of the National Front and Movement for France would then have little reason to back M Chirac's candidates in the second round.

Any result other than an RPR-UDF triumph would destabilise monetary union. A narrow win for the Right would leave the Eurosceptic faction in a stronger position. A hung parliament could conceivably leave the National Front holding the balance of power. Victory for the Left would put the Communists in the driving seat.

Conservative Eurosceptics in this country are left in a slightly embarrassing situation. The British electorate cannot stop the euro but the French public can. For that the Left must defeat M. Chirac. Eurosceptics here require the Communists in France to outperform present expectations — an *entente* improbable but possibly still *cordiale*.

SWINDON DES RES

This old house could make young prophets as well as profits

The Roman villa unearthed on a building site at Swindon seems to be palatial. Of course, archaeologists turning a new sod can sound as sensational as estate agents with a new property. But the evidence of mosaics, hypocaust underfloor heating, baths and serried vine terraces points to a palace. Something on the scale of Fishbourne may lie under this development in an area not previously celebrated for its gracious living or its importance in Roman Britain.

So far the recovery system has worked with the efficiency of ancient Rome in its prime. As required by planning guidelines, the developers have halted their mechanical diggers and called in the archaeologists. Talks with English Heritage and the Swindon council will now work out the best way to find exactly what is there and, if it turns out to be as exciting as it promises, how to preserve it. Swindon could give the developers an alternative site in compensation.

Because of new techniques, more archaeological discoveries are being made in Britain than ever before. The magnetometers and other geometric tools are discovering the street plan of Viroconium, Britain's greenfield Pompeii by Wroxeter. The Palumbo development at No 1 Poultry is filling in the jigsaw of Roman London. But however interesting, all this is short-term rescue archaeology on development sites, funded by the developers and carried out by competing commercial archaeological units. The days of the great research digs, such as Mortimer Wheeler at Maiden Castle or Barry Cunliffe at Fishbourne, have gone.

At Swindon, however, if ground-penetrating radar reveals that substantial remains lie under the tip of the palace that has emerged, there is a chance for something better than hasty dig followed by feckless reburial. For the relics of the past can be a tourist attraction as well as an educational inspiration. Fewer pupils now learn their Latin irregular verbs. But primary schoolchildren who study Romans in the national curriculum know all about hypocausts and procurators. Thousands more study classics, archaeology, architecture and art at secondary school and university.

The architect Nicholas Wood's project to rebuild the 2,000-year-old House of the Tragic Poet at Pompeii in Britain as a commercial venture is attracting international interest. Replica mosaics, roof tiles and furniture have already been made for this villa, which was the inspiration of Bulwer Lytton's *The Last Days of Pompeii*. The committee has applied for a site at Greenwich. Now the developers at Swindon may have turned up an early native example of their trade. Preserving or restoring the Swindon villa could create a tourist attraction as well as a wonder of Wiltshire. So it might prove quite as proper a use of lottery money for education as homework clubs or literacy centres — and much more fun.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Major's faults, achievements and capacity to govern

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("Major is just not up to the job", April 22) is quite correct to point out that John Major's "leadership" has made the present Government the least electable for 50 years and created the possibility of a dangerously massive Labour victory. Yet the validity of his analysis exposes the falsity of his claim that Tony Blair's capacity to fill the office better is "another matter".

On the contrary, it is the heart of the matter; it is the main problem the electorate has to solve, despite the efforts of the party spin doctors to obscure it. It is simply not true that the only argument for democracy is that it can eject poor governments, regardless of whether the alternative on offer is any better.

Despite Tony Blair's attempt to pretend that "new" Labour is simply Thatcherism with a friendly face, his boast of domination of his party is manifestly hollow. Old socialists and union barons are very much alive, and merely keeping quiet to lull the electorate into granting them a new lease of life. Indeed, a large Labour majority might well open the way to a similar coup to that by which Ken Livingstone acquired the leadership of the GLC in 1981.

The ideal outcome of this election would be a Parliament so comprehensively hung that the long-attempted and urgently-needed breaking of the current party moulds occurs, and voters are once again given a genuine choice on key issues. As it is now clear that the biggest of these on May 1 is reversing Maggie Thatcher's sleep-walk into King Kohl's "Union of Roman Socialist Republics", a strong contingent of conservative (Tory, Liberal, Labour or fringe) sceptics is essential.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
3 Laroc Close,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.
April 22.

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky acknowledges, rather temperately I thought, that the Government can claim "numerous worthy achievements", including defeating inflation and running a sensible economic policy. Yet the moment he turns to party politics, all show of temperance departs.

In his effort to portray the Government as "the least electable for 50 years", he ransacks the beginner's guide to polite abuse and comes up with "farces and fiascos . . . tragicomic asymmetry . . . politically ineffectual leadership" etc.

"Least electable for 50 years"? Where was Mr Kaletsky in the Wilson era? Does he remember George Brown's National Plan or Crossman's national superannuation or Barbara Castle's *In Place of Strife* or Crosland's destruction of grammar schools, to say nothing of Red Robbo, Solomon Binding and the winter of discontent?

Mr Kaletsky's prediction of "the greatest electoral landslide for 50 years" recalls several of his treasured economics columns in which he tries vainly to explain away his own earlier mistaken predictions. Perhaps Mr Major should be heartened by gloom from such quarters as this.

Yours etc,
RALPH HARRIS,
5 Cantley Close,
Wood Street, Barnet, Hertfordshire.
April 23.

From Mr Tristan Garel-Jones

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky asserts that the Government is not up to the job and should not be re-elected.

But he also asserts that John Major is liked by the voters, has defeated inflation, run a sensible economic policy after Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism and steered a pragmatic course in relations with Europe. Some of your readers might think that these three issues of policy are the most important facing the country today and, combined with Mr Major's popularity and decency, make the case for re-election.

Mr Kaletsky's debit list is made up of what he himself describes as a catalogue of tactical errors adding up, he believes, to ineffectual leadership. The leadership required to produce what Mr Kaletsky himself acknowledges as the Government's achievements is of a far higher calibre than the supposed tactical errors he prays in aid — each one of which, incidentally, is open to challenge.

Yours faithfully,
TRISTAN GAREL-JONES
(MP for Watford (Conservative) 1979-97),
12 Catherine Place, SW1.
April 23.

Costs of shopping in our city centres

From Mr James J. Dunnett, RIBA

Sir, The trouble with Simon Jenkins's implication ("Out of town, out of mind", April 19) that new shopping developments should be directed towards cities is that because of their scale, demand for wide, uninterrupted floor spaces, generous turning circles and headroom for delivery vehicles, good car-parking and standardised shop-front styling, they can be extremely destructive of urban qualities and fabric.

Even in a place as carefully protected as Cambridge the effect of such pressures on an old centre can be felt.

There is a point of view that many older French towns have survived better because shopping "sheds" have been permitted in a close circle round them. The present volume of consumption is unprecedented, and with it the simple need to get goods in and out.

Questions of how to ensure adequate access for those without cars, as well as those with, are certainly difficult, but there is a case for saying that new developments should be sited alongside, rather than in, existing centres both for their own good and that of the old centres.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DUNNETT,
James Dunnett Architects,
142 Barnsbury Road, N1.
April 23.

From the Director of the CPRE

Sir, Simon Jenkins is right to suggest that no one has calculated the costs to the UK of the growth of traffic and urban sprawl. But the reckoning has started elsewhere.

Academic research in the US has examined the costs inherent in building and servicing car-dependent, low-density development and the answers are not encouraging.

Low-density development on the suburban fringe can have infrastructure costs up to 50 per cent higher than more compact development in urban areas. This adds to reliance on the car, which already consumes 13 per cent of an average UK household's income, and the damage to the countryside.

Yours sincerely,
FIONA REYNOLDS,
Director, Council for the
Protection of Rural England,
Warwick House,
25 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
April 23.

From Mr Michael Moynihan

Sir, "An ancient town centre deserted and gasping for commercial breath." Simon Jenkins's depiction of Chichester as a prime victim of out-of-town supermarkets and ring roads is well off the mark.

On any fine day the semi-pedestrianised centre is overcrowded with shoppers, a magnet for buskers, restaurants and pubs humming, the twice weekly open-air market doing brisker business than the former cattle market.

What increasing numbers of tourists see is a predominantly Georgian cathedral city, cosily enclosed in its lofty medieval walls, from which the prospect, though no longer of water meadows, is more of parkland and playing fields than "traffic jams and suburban estates".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MOYNIHAN,
Nuthatch,
Fletcher Close, North Mundham,
Chichester, West Sussex.
April 22.

Lord Mackay's view

From Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor

Sir, I do not accept the account of my views given by Mr Magnus Linklater ("Wrecker on the woolsack", April 24) on how the House of Lords might scrutinise any future preliminary referendum Bill. I particularly reject the assertion that my view "appears to challenge the right of the Scottish electorate to decide its own constitutional future".

My view is that decisions upon any Bill that may be put before Parliament for a referendum in Scotland should be made in the light of all the circumstances then prevailing.

However, in answer to questions from journalists I have said that if a two-question referendum Bill is proposed I would think it is essential that the arrangements on which the questions arise should be made clear in the Bill.

I give three examples of what I have in mind. If an assembly with tax-varying powers is proposed for Scotland, what would be the effect of establishing such an assembly on the financial arrangements between Scotland and the United Kingdom? What is the difference in this aspect between Scotland and Wales? Would Scottish ministers answerable to the assembly have observer status only in European discussions instead of being members of the United Kingdom ministerial team, as Scottish ministers are now?

In the last paragraph of your first leader (same day), speaking of Mr Blair, you say:

> *But he is still tight-lipped on the two most important issues for the next Parliament: devolution and the single currency. Between now and May 1, the voters want to hear cool clarity, not warm words.*

So far as devolution is concerned this expresses succinctly what I have argued.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACKAY,
Suite 1/1,
14 Links Place, Edinburgh.
April 25.

Test of loyalties

From Mr Martin Cosgrove

Sir, Laurel and Hardy have remained loved over the years. They have stood the test of time.

Labour may live to regret, in opposition, the superimposition of the faces of Mr Major and Mr Clarke in *The Times* (report and pictures, April 22).

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN COSGROVE,
1 Mornington Avenue, W14.
April 23.

The rest is silence

From Mr Robert Bond

Sir, My most recent postal election communication came this morning. It was perhaps the most profound message I have received so far . The envelope was empty.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BOND,
11 Wainalong Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
April 24.

Election turn-off

From Mr Peter M. Wright

Sir, Eight hours of results (groan), swingometers (argh), Paxman (ugh). As my late grandfather advised of general elections: "Don't vote, it only encourages them."

Yours faithfully,
PETER M. WRIGHT,
Whinhurst,
Portencross,
West Kilbride, Ayrshire.
April 24.

Politics and farmers

From Lord Plumb, MEP for The Cotswolds (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, I was somewhat surprised to read the headline, "Farmers' chief to vote for Labour", over your report (April 24) of the views expressed in the letter which you carry in the same issue by a former president of the National Farmers' Union, Sir Simon Gourlay.

In his letter, Sir Simon criticises the present Government's performance on agriculture, notably over the BSE crisis, and concludes that the Conservatives have forfeited the right to the support of the farming community. Like the rest of us, Sir Simon is of course entitled to vote as he deems fit.

As the leading organisation representing farmers, the NFU has continued to maintain a strictly neutral position on party politics. It must be free to criticise or praise the government of the day, and more importantly work with it for the benefit of the food and agricultural industry. That is exactly what the NFU's current leaders have done, as their stewardship of the BSE crisis has demonstrated.

I have a different view from Sir Simon. The present Government has faced the deepest crisis to hit British agriculture in living memory with both fortitude and generous support. I believe that many farmers who would have gone under but for the rescue measures taken by the Government will remember that when they come to cast their vote.

Yours,
HENRY PLUMB,
(President, NFU, 1970-79),
European Parliament,
Rue Belliard 97, 1040 Brussels.

From Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton

Sir, The National Farmers' Union has always been apolitical. As a member I object to our past president using his position to add credence to his personal political views.

Yours faithfully,
E. D. LEIGH-PEMBERTON,
Longcot House, Faringdon, Oxford.
April 24.

Water supplies

From Wing Commander Derek Martin

Sir, Mr J. A. Meacham (letter, April 22) suggests that the next Government might renationalise the water companies. But the water industry was never nationalised. It belonged to the people through their local authorities.

In the mid-1980s the Government seized what was already owned by the people and sold it to them, so that they paid to become shareholders instead of owners.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK MARTIN
(Member of Board,
Thames Water, 1981-83),
Cobble Wood Cottage,
Medmenham,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
April 22.

From Mr David B. Walton

Sir, Five days ago I noticed that all the cows in the surrounding fields were lying down. As a child, I was assured that this was a sign that rain was on its way. So far none has fallen.

Does this mean that the cows' forecasting ability has been affected by global warming, or that they were simply exhausted from standing around, waiting?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WALTON,
The Old Rectory, Tretire,
St Owen's Cross, Hereford.
April 23.

Old school ties

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir, How desperately depressing is Jason Cowley's article "Power, glory and the advance of the old school tie" (April 24). Not for him or for others who have not been given a fair chance in our society, but for the health and wealth of our nation.

We need the best of the talents of all our citizens to be applied to our problems if we are to succeed in this fiercely competitive world.

Choosing our leaders and our captains of industry from a small self-perpetuating elite and discriminating against people of talent because they are from the wrong background is a handicap we simply cannot afford any longer.

Are Blair or any of the present bidders for power likely to do anything about this debilitating scandal? They show no sign of it.

I think it should be illegal for anyone to offer a job simply on the basis of background or personal acquaintance. An extension of our present Equal Opportunities legislation ought to be able to deal with that.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ROACH,
43 Ripon Way,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.
April 25.

From Mrs Diana May

Sir, The caption mentions Eton: the picture is clearly Harrow. How good to find *The Times* supports the egalitarian tone of Cowley's article by employing people presumably educated elsewhere.

Yours etc,
DIANA MAY,
265 Swakeleys Road,
Ickenham, Middlesex.
April 24.

Doctors' pay

From Rear-Admiral J. R. Hill

Sir, I wonder where Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, a former chairman of the British Medical Association, got his figure of £12 billion a year for the cost of Trident (Valerie Grove interview, April 18). Twelve billion pounds is the cost of the whole Trident programme, spread over some 15 years.

By all means let the merits of Trident be discussed vis-à-vis the proposal for £80,000-£100,000-a-year doctors: but from a basis of correct facts, please.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD HILL,
Cornhill House,
The Hangers, Bishop's Waltham,
Southampton, Hampshire.
April 19.

Girl power

From Mrs Anne Louise Curry

Sir, I have come to the conclusion that The Spice Girls have finally made it as stars. They appear on the front cover of the April issue of *Accountancy* — the journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE LOUISE CURRY,
Applewood,
1 Ashley Close,
Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.
April 24.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Weapons and wildlife

From Mr Richard Micklethwait

Sir, I was interested to read of the inquiry into the expansion of Army training on the Otterburn range ("Army big guns threaten peace of national park", April 23), living as I do near another MoD base, at RAF Caerwent in Monmouthshire.

Environmentalists may object to such development, but the biodiversity of these sites depends on limited public access. At Otterburn you report that the public are excluded for 300 days of the year.

The population of merlin, black grouse, ring ouzel and other wildlife is far more likely to thrive with more weapon-testing than with unrestricted public access. The anti-personnel fence surrounding RAF Caerwent is a considerable wildlife asset and, as at Otterburn, much of the community around the former village of Dinham on the Caerwent site supports ongoing military use.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MICKLETHWAIT,
Penhein,
Nr Chepstow, Monmouthshire.
April 23.

Late motherhood

From Mrs Anne Rhodes

Sir, Reports today (April 25) suggest that, at 63, a woman in California is the oldest woman to give birth. Surely the previous record still stands as Sarah, wife of Abraham, who bore him a son when she was in her nineties (Genesis, xvii, 17 and xxi, 1-4).

Yours faithfully,
ANNE RHODES,
Little Roughwood,
71a Copthorne Road,
Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
April 25.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 25: The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, this evening attended the Annual Dinner of the Intelligence Corps at the Painters' Hall, Little Trinity Lane, London EC4.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Belstead (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk) at the Memorial Service for Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk) which was held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, today.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Lord Tollemache.

The Princess Royal was represented by the Countess of Lichfield.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Mrs Michael Harvey.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Major Nicholas Barne.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mr Andrew Palmer.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 25: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), today visited the 1st Battalion at the Cinque Ports Training Area, Lydd Camp, Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Concert and Dinner, held in aid of the St George's School, Windsor Castle, Development Campaign, at the Royal Naval College Greenwich.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal The Lord Bramall, KG).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 25: Princess Alexandra and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, today attended the Memorial Service for Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt which was held in Bury St Edmunds' Cathedral, Suffolk.

Christening

The second son of Mr and Mrs Merlin Hutchings was baptized Mylo Arthur Hinton by Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, at the Temple Church on Sunday, April 20, 1997. The godparents are Juliet Quintin-Archard, Caroline Weaver, Hugh Harvey-Kelly, Barry Leighton and Andrew Culshaw.

Mill Hill School

Term started on Monday, April 21. Matthew Frise is Senior Monitor and Marc Dweck Captain of Cricket. The School is pleased to announce that it has received a European Curriculum Award for its *European Initiative* programme. The Bishop of Edmonton will preach at Confirmation Service on May 19. Old Millhillians Day will be held on June 22 when all former pupils from the years 1970-80 are invited to lunch (further details from the Headmaster's Secretary). The Challenge of Leadership will take place from June 23 to 26. The 1st XI will leave for their cricket tour to the North of England on July 1. End of term will be July 3.

Kelly College

Mr D.W. Ball, MBE, MA, Headmaster of Kelly College, Tavistock, from 1972 to 1985, has been appointed a Governor.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Air Force

GROUP CAPTAIN: R H Kinzett - HQ DSCA, 28.4.97

WING COMMANDER: G A Bowerman - Dryad MWC, 14.4.97; A J Boyd - D of Defence Progs, 14.4.97; R B Cunningham - RAF Akrotiri, 14.4.97; M V Godfrey - SHAPE Int Staff, 14.4.97; D J Keenan - MOD, 14.4.97; A T Bake - RAF Benson, 28.4.97; R Ashenhurst - RAF Coltishall, 30.4.97.

Royal Marines Association

The Mayor and Councillors of Dover, the Alderman of Zeebrugge and Mr David Shaw attended wreath laying ceremonies in Dover yesterday to mark the raid on the Zeebrugge Mole. The Rev Basil Watson led the prayers. Lord Keyes, Lieutenant-Colonel H.H. Player, RMR, Colonel R. Burford, HAC, and members of the City of London branch of the Royal Marines Association were present.

World Traders

The following have been elected officers of the Company of World Traders for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr David Watt; Senior Warden, Mr Peter Wildblood, Junior Warden, Mr Alderman Roger Cork.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor 161-180 AD, Rome, 121; Leonardo da Vinci, painter, sculptor, architect and engineer, Vinci, 1452; John James Audubon, naturalist and artist, Les Cayes, Santo Domingo, 1785; Alfred Krupp, industrialist, Essen, 1812; Artemus Ward (pen name of Charles Farrar Browne), writer, Waterford, Maine, 1834; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Kaesong, 1875; Rudolf Hess, Nazi war criminal, Alexandria, Egypt, 1894; John Grierson, documentary film producer, Perth, 1898.

DEATHS: Jeremy Collier, controversialist, London, 1726; Carl Bosch, chemist, Nobel laureate 1931, Heidelberg, 1940; Sidney James, actor, Sunderland, 1976; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, London, 1980; William (Count) Basie, jazz bandleader and pianist, Florida, 1984.

The Great Plague began in London, 1665.

John Wilkes Booth, actor, the assassin of President Lincoln (April 14), was shot dead by troops, 1865.

The Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in Westminster Abbey, 1923.

An accident at the Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl led to far-reaching increases in radiation levels, 1986.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Edward Gibbon, historian, London, 1737; Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, pioneer of women's rights, London, 1759; Samuel Morse, painter and inventor of the telegraphic code bearing his name, Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1791; Ulysses Grant, general, C-in-C of Union forces in American Civil War, 18th American President 1869-77, Point Pleasant, Ohio, 1822; Edward Whymper, mountaineer and wood engraver, London, 1840; Cecil Day-Lewis, Poet Laureate 1968-72, and, as Nicholas Blake, writer of detective stories, Ballintubbert, Co Laois, Ireland, 1904; Sheila Scott, aviator, Worcester, 1927.

DEATHS: Thomas Stothard, painter, London, 1834; Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet, Concord, Massachusetts, 1882; Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1915; Ed Murrow, broadcaster, New York, 1965; Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana 1957-60, Bucharest, 1972.

The London Zoological Gardens opened, Regents Park, 1828.

The Abortion Act came into force liberalising the law on abortion, 1968.

Memorial services

Sir Joshua Rowley
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lord Belstead (Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk) at a memorial service for Sir Joshua Rowley, a former Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, held yesterday in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Lord Tollemache, the Princess Royal by the Countess of Lichfield, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester by Mrs Michael Harvey, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Major Nicholas Barne and the Duke and Duchess of Kent by Mr Andrew Palmer. Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy attended.

The Provost of St Edmundsbury officiated and the Dean of York led the prayers. The Duke of Grafton, KG, and Sir Simon Towneley read the lessons. General Sir David Fraser gave an address.

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich pronounced the blessing.

Major J.F.E. Clarke
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Major John Frank Edward Clarke, Chairman of Clarke & Smith Industries, was held yesterday in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, St Paul's Cathedral. Canon John Halliburton, Canon in Residence, officiated, assisted by the Rev Peter Haynes and the Rev John Paul, Minor Canon. Mr Colin M. Low, Senior Research Fellow, City University and Vice-Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and Mr Hugh Peltor, Director of BREMA read the lessons. Mr Mark Andrews, Senior Patrner of Wilde Sapte read an extract from Ralph Emerson's essays and Sir Duncan Watson of the World Blind Union gave an address. Among others present were:

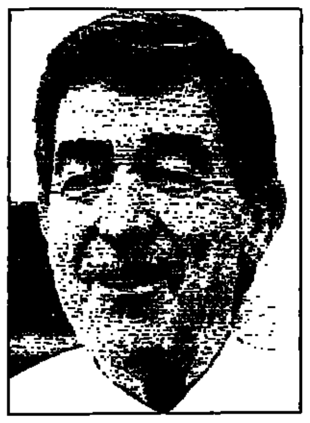
Mrs Clarke (widow), Mr Paul Clarke (son), Mrs Angela Helm (daughter), Mr Peter Clarke (brother) and other members of the family.

The Earl of Inchcape, Lord Chapple and Mr R A Norman (BREMA), Lord Cullen of Ashbourne (president, Listening Library) with Mr Tony Hepworth; Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent and Lady Kingsdown, Sir Nicholas Scott, Sir Roger Hurn (chairman, Smiths Industries), Sir Roger and Lady Moate.

Miss Carol Bird, Miss Anna Cooper, Mr Jaakko Raisanen (Finnish Blind Organisation, Finland), senior staff, past and present of Clarke & Smith Industries and many other friends and colleagues.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
The Marquess of Bute, 39; Mr Justice Cazalet, 61; Mr David Coleman, sports commentator, 71; the Earl of Dartmouth, 73; Mr J.C.B. Gosling, former Principal, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 67; Professor Margaret Gowing, FRS, FBA, scientific historian, 76; Mr Stuart Higgins, Editor, *The Sun*, 41; Professor Sir James Holt, FBA, former Master, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 75; Mr M.L.R. Isaac, former Headmaster, Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, 69; Mr Justice Jacob, 56; Mr William Tudor John, senior partner, Allen and Overy, 53; Major-General Harry Knutton, former director-general, City and Guilds of London Institute, 76; Dr Dame Anne McLaren, FRS, zoologist, 70; Professor Wilfrid Mellers, composer, 83; Sir Oliver Millar, Surveyor Emeritus of the Queen's Pictures, 74; Professor J.E. Morpurgo, Professor of American literature, 79; Professor Philip Poole-Wilson, cardiologist, 54; Mr Peter Schaufuss, ballet dancer and choreographer, 48; Dame Margaret Scott, founding director, Australian Ballet School, 75; Mr Derek Waring, actor, 67; Mr Morris West, novelist, 81; Mr Willie Wood, bowler, 59.


Sir Gordon Downey is 69 today

TOMORROW:
Professor J.P. Barron, Master, St Peter's College, Oxford, 63; Air Marshal Sir Charles Broughton, 86; Miss Darcey Bussell, ballerina, 28; Mr Donald Buttress, Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, 65; Sir Ross Chesterman, former Warden, Goldsmiths' College, 88; the Most Rev R.H.A. Eames, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, 60; Mr Michael Fish, meteorologist, 53; Sir Peter Imbert, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 64; the Right Rev E.W. Kemp, Bishop of Chichester, 82; Sir Harry Melville, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 89; Mr Igor Oistrakh, violinist, 66; Mr Jeff Probyn, rugby player, 41; Mr Richard Ralph, diplomat, 51; Mr Alan Reynolds, painter, 71; the Hon Nicholas Serota, director, Tate Gallery, 51; Lord Taylor of Gryfe, 85; Sir John Thomson, diplomat, 70.

Service dinners

Intelligence Corps
The Duke of Edinburgh was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Intelligence Corps Officers' Dinner Club held last night at Painters' Hall. General Sir Roger Wheeler, Colonel Commandant, presided.

East Surrey Regiment
Major-General G.A. White presided at a dinner held last at Simpson's-in-the-Strand for Officers of the East Surrey Regiment.

No 1 Group, RAF
Marshal of the RAF Lord and Lady Craig of Radley with other former Air Officers Commanding No 1 Group and their ladies attended a ladies guest night dinner held last night at RAF Benson and dined out Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs J.R. Day. Squadron Leader S.G. Wragg presided. Air Commodore P.V. Harris, Senior Air Staff Officer, also spoke.

RAF Dinner Club
Air Marshal Sir David Cousins, Air Member of Personnel and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Personnel and Training Command, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Air Force Dinner Club held last night at the RAF Club. Air Commodore A.J. Burton, presided. Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison was among the guests.

Dinners

London Pembrokeshire Society
Professor Stuart Cole, President of the London Pembrokeshire Society, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Innholders' Hall to mark the bi-centenary of the last invasion of Great Britain at Fishguard in 1797. Sir David Mansel Lewis, Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Colonel George A. Jackson, Pembroke Yeomanry, and Miss Eleanor Davies, committee chairman, also spoke.

Old Grovian Association
Mr John Brodwell presided at the annual dinner of the Lancashire and Cheshire branch of the Old Grovian Association held last night at Sacha's Hotel, Manchester. Mr Roger Taylor chairman, and Mr David Humphreys, Headmaster of Woodhouse Grove School, also spoke.

Himalayan Club
Mr Andy McNae of the British Mountaineering Council was the guest of honour at the annual reunion dinner of the Himalayan Club held last night at the Oriental Club. Mr Robert Pettigrew presided.

Luncheons

Society of Chemical Industry
Mr Raymond Holland, Chairman of the international governing council of the Society of Chemical Industry, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at their headquarters at Belgrave Square after honorary memberships were conferred on Lord Dainton, FRS, and Lord Lewis of Newnham, FRS. Citations were delivered by Sir Geoffrey Allen, FRS, and Sir David Harrison.

World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics
The Norbert Wiener Memorial Gold Medal was presented to Professor B.H. Rudall by the Director-General, Professor R. Vallée, at a luncheon held at the Reform Club on April 16.

Service luncheon

Fifth Indian Division
Major-General Patrick Stone was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Fifth Indian Division held yesterday at the Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington. Lieutenant-Colonel A.P. Harrington presided.

Appointment

Mr John Guilford Gordon Ungley to be a Queen's Bench Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.R. Duncan
and Miss C. Tan
Bernard and Diana Duncan, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, announce the engagement of their son, Mark, to Camellia, daughter of Sebastian and Elizabeth Tan, of Singapore.

Dr D.W. Goss
and Miss H.L. McKenzie
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr W. Goss and the late Mrs Goss, of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, and Helen, eldest daughter of Mrs Mary McKenzie, of Bristol.

Mr M.B.J. Hutchins
and Miss J.R. Harris
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs James Hutchins, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ray Harris, of Ashtead, Surrey.

Mr M.D. Lawrence
and Miss H.L. Holmes
The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald Lawrence, of Reigate, Surrey, and Honor, youngest daughter of the late Mr Anthony Holmes and of Mrs Holmes, of Petworth, West Sussex.

Dr J.A. Stones
and Miss R.E. Rees
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Stones, of Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs Iorwerth Rees, of Colwyn Bay, North Wales, formerly of Llandaff, Cardiff.

Mr J. Swanston
and Miss A.J. Cox
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Miles Swanston, of Cove, Berwickshire, and Alexandra Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Cox, of Duddington, Northamptonshire.

Captain A.G.C. Fair
and Miss C.E. Collis
The engagement is announced between Captain Angus Fair, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, son of Mr Nicholas Fair, of Llanfihangel-ar-arth, Carmarthenshire, and Mrs Isla Fair, of Chinnor, Oxfordshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr Nigel Collis, of Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire, and Mrs John Potter, of Dale, Pembrokeshire.

Mr M. Taylor
and Miss C. Wheeler
The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Taylor, of Hill Head, Hampshire, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wheeler, of Tuckenhay, Devon.

Mr A. Whittell
and Miss J.A. Lumbard
The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Ian Whittell, of Horbury, Wakefield, Yorkshire, and Jane Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Lumbard, of Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Marriages

The Right Hon Lord Norton
and Miss F.E.P. Rothwell
The marriage took place in London on Wednesday, April 23, of James Nigel Arden Lord Norton and Miss Frances Elizabeth Prioleau Rothwell. A reception was held at Mosimanns and the honeymoon is being spent in Venice.

Mr C. Delves
and Mrs M. Chapman
The marriage has taken place in Richmond upon Thames of Mr Claude Delves, FRICS, and Mrs Margot Chapman, *née* Graville, MBE.

University news

Oxford

The John Pearce Memorial Prizes in Surgery for 1997 have been awarded to the following:
James Alexander Haeney, Brasenose College; Sadia Naseem Khan, St Edmund Hall; Marisa Danièle Le Masurier, Green College; Mohammad Bagher Malaki Varnamkhasti, Queen's College; Matthew Benjamin Keeble Shaw, Green College.

Cambridge

Queens' College
To an Official Fellowship and College Lectureship in History from October 1:
Richard Andrew William Rex.

Hughes Hall
Elected into Fellowships (Class A):
John Holly Barker, Robin Benville Boast, Pamela Benham Davis, Paul William Leopold Siklos, Sylvana Palma Tomaselli, Marc Weller.

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday after Easter

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Darke in E, O Lord increase (Loosemore), The Provost; 6.30 Diocesan Choral E.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Stanford in B flat, Cantate Domino (Pitoni), Rev H Moore; 3.15 Choral E, Wood in C minor, O be joyful in the Lord (Britten).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Regina caeli (Aichinger); 11 S Euch, Darke in E, Almighty God who by Thy Son (Gibbons); 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, The Lord is my shepherd (Rutter).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 M; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Alleluia Dextera Domini, O sacrum convivium (Tallis); 4 Choral E, Stanford in A, Greater Love hath no man (Ireland).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, Hear my words ye people (Parry), Canon Hall; 10.30 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ave verum (Byrd), Canon Hindley; 4 Choral E, Hail gladdening light (Wood), The Provost.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 Holy Euch, Wood in the Ionian Mode, The Dean; 3.30 E, Wesley in E, I will sing unto the Lord (Pring).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 9.30 S Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Ives), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), The Archdeacon; 3.15 E & Installation of Six Preachers, Stanford in A, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré); 6.30 Compline, Mr R Braman.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E, Love bade me welcome (Vaughan Williams), The Dean; 3 E, Stanford in B flat, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, Canon B Thompson; 9.30 Euch & Parade, Rev I Moody; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in F, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Canon D Knight; 6 Choral E, Dyson in D, Light out of darkness (Elgar), Canon J Bown.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), The Call (Vaughan Williams), The Archdeacon; 11.30 Choral M, Te Deum & Jubilate (Stanford in B flat), Te es Petrus (Duruflé), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E, Aston in F, My beloved spake (Hadley); 6.30 Healing & Laying on of Hands, Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Boyce in C, Come my way (Vaughan Williams), The Bursalis Prebendary; 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Victimae Paschali (Byrd), Rev G Hall; 3.30 E, Bairstow in D, Rise heart (Vaughan Williams).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Te Deum (Sumsion in G), Canon Peirce; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Pater Noster (Palestrina), Up up my heart with gladness (Bach), Canon O'Donovan; 6 E, Humfrey in F minor, My beloved spake (Purcell).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, If you love me (Tallis), O for a closer walk (Stanford), Very Rev J Petty; 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish Lutherans; 5 E, O for a closer walk (Stanford), Brewer in D, Greater love (Ireland); 7.15 City Celebration.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Dean; 10 M, Christo resurgenti (Couperin), Canon S Pedley; 11.15 HC, Missa brevis (Britten), Canon D Brown; 2 Northumbria Area Baden-Powell Scouts St George's Day Parade; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, Evening Hymn (Purcell).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Rev J McFarlane; 10.30 S Euch & Holy Baptism, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Set me as a seal (Farrell), Rev B Clover; 2 Ely District Scout Council St George's Tide Service, Rev J McFarlane; 3.45 E, Child in E minor, Ecce tu pulchra es (Philips).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10 S Euch & Confirmation, O Holy Spirit Lord of grace (Tye), Worth Service (Tanner), Come Holy Ghost (Attwood), The Bishop of Plymouth; 3 E, Ireland in F, The strife is o'er (Shephard); 6.30 E, Sing choirs of heaven (Shephard), Canon D Ison.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Schubert in G, Rt Rev R Abu el-Assal; 3 E, Dyson in D, Harwood in A flat, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Dr I Fisher; 9.45 S Euch, Schubert in G, Canon J Schofield; 11.15 M, Jubilate in F (Ireland), Christ being raised from the dead (Moore), Dr B Thomson; 6.30 E, Smart in B flat, O hearken thou (Elgar), Rev Prof D Martin.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Rheinberger in E, O magnum mysterium (Poulenc), The Archdeacon; 11.30 M, Jackson in G, My beloved spake (Tomkins); 3.30 E, E, Cathedral Choir.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Mozart in D (K194), Hallelujah, Amen (Handel), The Provost; 4 Choral E, Ireland in C, O sing joyfully (Batten), Canon G Willett.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Jubilate in C (Boyce), Ave verum corpus ((Mozart), Preb A Williams; 3.30 E, In Thanksgiving for Christian Aid, Howells in G, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, The Precentor; 11.15 M, Short Service (Gibbons), Christ rising again (Weelkes); 3 Arthritis Care, Stanford in A, The spirit of the Lord (Elgar), The Bishop of Grantham.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 Holy Euch, The Dean; 9 Parish Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch, Kyrie (Ireland), Stanford in C & F, Haec dies quam fecit Dominus (Byrd), The Canon; 12.15 Holy Euch; 3.30 Choral E, Sumsion in D, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley); 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Rev M Tomlinson.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Royal Norfolk Regiment; 10.30 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Christus factus est (Bruckner), Canon M Perham; 3.30 E & Installation of Honorary Canons, Blair in B minor, Alleluia Who is this who comes in triumph (Archer), The Dean; 6.30 Night Prayer.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Ireland in F; 10.30 Euch, Darke in F, Mr K Mackay; 3 St George's Day, Rev J Thackray; 5.30 E.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne), Locus iste (Bruckner), The Provost; 11 S Euch, Rejoice in the Lord (anon), Mass for four voices (Byrd), O clap your hands (Gibbons), Canon A Wilkinson; 6.30 E, First Service (Weelkes), Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), Canon C Bradley.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Rev D Murfet; 8.45 M; 9.30 Parish Euch, Canon M Glanville-Smith; 11.30 Choral Euch, Missa Bell' Amfitrit' Altera (Lassus), The Dean; 12.30 Euch, Canon H Garside; 3 Holy Baptism; 5.30 E, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Hawes in D), Tu es Petrus (Palestrina), Rev D Paton-Williams.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Te Deum/Jubilate (Ireland in F), Death and darkness get you packing (Ferguson); 10.30 S Euch, Kent Service (Ferguson), If ye love me (Tallis), Ven N Warren; 3.15 St George's Day Parade.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, The Provost; 4.30 Confirmation group; 6.30 Festal E & Sermon, Canon T Page.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, The Chancellor; 11 S Euch, Darke in E, Tu es Petrus (Palestrina), The Provost; 3.15 E, Stanford in C, Evening Hymn (Gardiner).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, If ye love me (Tallis), Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Canon A Phillips; 6 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Shephard), The Dean.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Provost; 9.15 Parish Communion, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 11 Solemn Euch, Vouchsafe O Lord (Purcell), Gloria in excelsis (Weelkes), The Provost; 2.30 Scouts Service, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 6.30 E, New College Service (Howells), Blessed be the God (Wesley), Canon D Baxter.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Rev P Walker; 11.30 M, Britten in C, Jubilate Deo (Lassus); 3 E, The Second Service (Leighton), My beloved spake (Hadley), Rev G Farran; 5 Mid Somerset District Clubs & Scouts.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Since by man came death (Handel), Br. Samuel; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Rejoice in the Lord (anon), Locus iste (Bruckner), Rev B Fenton; 3 E, Watson in E, Put thou they trust (Bliss), Canon A Harvey; 5.45 Recital; 6.30 Evening, The Dean.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Jubilate (Walton), My beloved spake (Hadley), The Dean; 11.30 Euch, Missa 'Bel' amfitrit' altera' (Lassus), Praeludium in F major (Lubeck); 3.30 E, St John's Service (Howells), Behold O god our defender (Howells), Rev C Stewart.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Ave verum (Elgar), Rev R Metcalfe; 11.30 M, Noble in B minor; 4 E, Wood in E flat no. 2; Then shall be brought to pass (Handel), Rev P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral M, O for a closer walk (Stanford), Rev R Griffiths; 3.30 EP.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M, Mgr L White.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Morning HC, The Minister; 10 Morning HC, The Minister, Mass in C (Mozart); 11.30 Morning, Rejoice in the Lamb (Britten), The Minister; 6 St Giles at Six, Musicians; 8 Evening HC, Rev K Watson.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch, Missa Aedes Christi (Mathias), Magnificat (Swayne), The Provost; 3.30 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 HC, Rev D Molyneaux; 6 Rev R Frazer.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Jubilate in C (Stanford), Let us invoke Christ (Grier), Rev Dr W Huffmeier; 3.15 E, Stanford in A, The kingdom of God (Wood), Rev J Halliburton.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London SW7: Easter, 11.45pm Saturday, Midnight Service.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 8.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Festiva (Peeters), Rev P Johnstone; 6 E&B, Bairstow in D, Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Communion Service, Rev Dr J Stott; 6.30 Rev R Trist.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa simile est regnum (Victoria), Spring bursts today (Shaw), Gaude flore Virginali (Carver).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, How beauteous are the feet (Stanford), Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev J McMahon; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Millar; 11 Morning, Rev S Downham; 5, 7 Informal, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Dixerunt discipuli (Anerio) 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Ave verum corpus (Gounod).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: Feast of the Apparition of the Holy Cross.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr R Frost.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 HC, Rev P Sutcliffe; 6.30 Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral Euch, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Jazz Vespers, Brian Fisher.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, South Kensington: Kyrie (Taverner) (Western Wynde Mass), Ave verum (Mozart).

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Gaudeamus (Victoria), The Rector; 6.30 E, Jackson in G, Lieve dir ergeb ich mich (Cornelius), Regina caeli (Morales), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (Walton), Harwood in A flat, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), While Christ lay dead (Vann), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Proclaim his triumph (Grier), Where does the uttered music go? (Walton), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Aircrew Association Annual Service, Te Deum, Collegium Regale (Howells), Glorious and powerful God (Stanford), Rev V Cooper.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 HC, Rev F Macdonald; 3 HC, Rev W Cairns; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place 9, 11 S Mass, Missa Pontificalis (Perosi), O Sanctissima (Bartolucci).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Crossley-Holland), Closing service of London Handel Festival, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), English Chamber Choir, John Paul (Rector).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family Sonata No. 1 (Mendelssohn), Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Welcome sweet and sacred feast (Finzi), Rev C Kevill-Davies; 6.30 E, Laudibus in sanctis (Byrd), Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Euge Bone (Tye), Alleluia I heard a voice (Weelkes), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert; 11.30 Visitors, Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese, Rev D Foo; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev T Thornton; 11.15 Choral M, Rev T Thornton; 6.30 E, Mr N Pain.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass (Jongen), Tu es Petrus (Duruflé), The Rector.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: Choral Euch, Missa Quarti toni (Victoria), O nata lux (Tallis), Ven G Reid.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Mass Cantate (Sheppard), I know that my redeemer liveth (Handel), Fr W Keyes.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, Jubilate (Purcell in D), Gloria in excelsis Deo (Weelkes), Preb M Gowan; 6.30 E.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev P Abram; 11 M & Sermon, Te Deum (Britten in C), If ye be risen again with Christ (Gibbons), Rev P Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Set me as a seal (Walton), Rev J Haslam.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Cantate Domino (Monteverdi), Dominic Richards.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Te Deum (Britten in E), My beloved spake (Hadley), The Chaplain; 12.30 HC.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, 8 South Sq, WC1: 11.15 S Euch.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 HC, Missa Brevis (Walton), Rise hear the Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Bow thine eyes (Arensky), My soul there is a country (Parry), Band of the Irish Guards, Rev L Bryan; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd), Behold how good and joyful (Clarke Whitfield).

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

We are rather to maintain the truth in a spirit of love; so shall we fully grow up into Christ. He is the Head. Ephesians 4 : 15

BIRTHS

BEARD - On April 18th 1997, to Lucinda (née Morden) and David, a son, Maximilian Anthony.

CAVE - On April 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Emily and Richard, a daughter, Olivia Jane.

DAVIES - On 17th April 1997 in the Falklands, to Sarah (née Griffiths) and Richard, a son, John Richard Falkland.

LOFTUS - On 18th April, to Sarah (née Bird) and Michael, a son, Edward Finley, a brother for James and Alexander.

McBRIDE - On April 24th 1997, to Lydia and David, a daughter, Lauren Emily.

POMEROY - On 18th April, to Caroline (née Grindle) and Henry, a son, Hugh William, a brother for Patrick.

RADCLIFFE-TREBBER - On 21st March, 1997, in Princeton, New Jersey, USA to Annabelle and Richard, a son, Winslow, a brother for Miles.

SALWEY - On 18th April 1997, to Julie (née Randall) and Roger, a daughter, Saskia.

SELBY - On April 24th 1997 (Leonora's birthday) at the Rosie, to Neville and Mary, a daughter, Matilda Phoebe Hope, a sister for Caroline, Pimena, Leonora, Anastasia and Henrietta.

SHORTT - On April 13th, to Jonathan and Xenia, a daughter, Rebecca Clare.

SLATER - On 23rd April, to Lucy (née Foot) and Simon, a daughter, Emma, a sister for Camilla, Matthew and Rory. Thanks to all at R.S.C.H.

WAUCHOPE - On 14th April 1997 in Singapore, to Jessica (née Hudson) and Francis, a daughter, Lydia Anne.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

HARLEY:MATTHEWS - Robert to Mary 27th April 1957. Now at Chelmsford.

DEATHS

ABRAMSKY - Miriam (née Nirenstein), deeply loved wife of Chimen, mother of Jack and Jenny and grandmother of Sasha, Kolya, Rob, Tanya and Maia, died peacefully on 25th April after a long illness. Funeral on Sunday 27th April at 12.30 pm at Jewish Reform Cemetery, Hoop Lane, London NW11. No flowers please.

BIRDWOOD - Phyllis Rosa on 23rd April aged 91, peacefully at St Georges Nursing Home, London SW1. Devoted wife of the late Dick Birdwood and beloved mother of Roger, Georgie and Gordon, grandmother of Victoria, Alex, Will, Laura and Katie, and great-grandmother of Rosie. Funeral at St Michaels Horwood on Tuesday 29th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Devon Red Cross.

BOLS - Anne (née Meade). Suddenly on St George's Day. Most beloved wife and mother. Funeral Wednesday 30th April Earlham Crematorium at 2 pm followed by a Thanksgiving at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich at 3 pm. No flowers. Donations to Save the Children Fund c/o Peter Taylor, Funeral Directors, 86 Unthank Road, Norwich.

BURTON - Geoffrey, much loved by Joy, Rupert and Prue, very peacefully on April 24th 1997 at Rutland Memorial Hospital, Oakham, surrounded by loving care. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St James the Greater Parish Church, London Road, Leicester, on Tuesday April 29th at 1 pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired payable to Catmose Vale Ward, Rutland Memorial Hospital c/o A.C. James & Son Funeral Directors, 30 St Stephens Road, Leicester, tel: (0116) 2542900.

CAMPLIN - Robert (Bob). Peacefully on 24th April. Beloved husband of Peggy and devoted father of John and Julia. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral Service at Slough Crematorium on Thursday 1st May at 3 pm. Flowers or donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, c/o W. Garstin, (0171) 935-4868. Funeral Director F. Smith & Son, 12 Richmond Road, Staines, TW18 2AB, (01784) 452276.

CARTWRIGHT - Bishop David Cartwright died peacefully on April 24th. Husband of Elsie, father of Roger, Sarah and Rachel, he retired as Bishop of Southampton after a lifelong ministry in Boston, Bristol and Winchester. There will be a private funeral, and later a Thanksgiving Service will be held at Winchester Cathedral for all who wish to attend on Friday 6th June at 2.30 pm.

CLAPSS - On April 9th, 1997, Vivienne (née Woolard Harper), died after a long illness in Denver, Colorado, USA. Preceded by her parents Mr & Mrs Clarence Walter Woolard. Only sister of six brothers currently residing in England. For details please contact Mrs J Foco 001 303 355 3462.

DADGE - Dr. David Roger aged 60 years, on Wednesday April 23rd 1997, suddenly at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. A beloved husband, father and grandpa. Funeral Service at Ugborough Parish Church, South Devon on Monday 28th April at 2.30 pm followed by interment. Enquiries to Fanning Funeral Services tel: (01752) 892577.

GIBSON - Kathrine (née Godfrey) died 23rd April after a tragically short illness. Much loved mother, grandmother and friend. Funeral on Monday 28th April at 2.30 pm, St Francis of Assisi Church, Pottery Lane, W11. Flowers before noon on Monday to J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, London W2.

JONES - Barbara E.K. on 22nd April in Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield, dearly loved wife of Alwyn, mother of Susie, Kate, Peter and Mark and grandmother of their eight children. At her request her body was made available to the hospital to aid their research into lymphoma and breast cancer. Funeral at Chesterfield Crematorium at 2.30 pm Tuesday 29th April 1997. No flowers please but donations to Weston Park Hospital Research Fund will be welcomed. Funeral Directors: S. Hattersley & Sons Ltd. Funeral Directors, 211 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield (01246) 232820.

MACPHIE - Peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Friday April 25th 1997, Stewart aged 67 years, Glenbervie House. Beloved husband of Jill, dear father of Fiona and Alastair and much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at West Mearns Parish Church, Glenbervie on Tuesday April 29th at 1.30 pm, interment thereafter at the churchyard to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

MORRIS - On 24th April 1997 Edward Allan, C.M.G., O.B.E., husband of Phyllis, father of Rosalie, grandfather of Jamie and Emma. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Twickenham, on Friday 2nd May at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Macmillan Nurses. Enquiries to F.W. Paine, Twickenham, (0181) 892-1784.

PEEL - Hector Illon Frederick M.Sc.Tech., C.Eng., A.M.C.T., F.I.E.E. - Epping, Essex, aged 82 on 21st April, widower of his beloved Mary (née Moxon). Deeply mourned by son Richard (Monica), grandchildren Tiffany and Gregory of Markham, Canada and friend Carol Tydeman of Luton. Funeral Service at 11.30 am Tuesday April 29th at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow. Enquiries D.C. Poulton & Sons, (01992) 572609. Family flowers only, but donations if desired may be made to British Heart Foundation.

PREVEZER - Professor Sidney peacefully on 24th April 1997 at home surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Enid, loving father of Martha, Susan, Andrew and Matthew. Will be greatly missed by his brother Henry, Sophie, Marina, David and Ben and his grandchildren and all his friends.

RODGERS - Dr. George Alan of Oak Cottage, The Riddox, Brurwood, Leominster, HR6 9JS, suddenly on 21st April. Cremation at Hereford Crematorium on Wednesday 30th April at 12 noon. Donations to Macmillan Nurses Fund.

TALBOT-PONSONBY - On April 23rd 1997 at his home in Berkhamsted, Evelyn Talbot-Ponsonby aged 81 years. Husband of Hilary. Funeral Service will take place at St Mary's Church, Northchurch, on Thursday May 1st at 2pm. No flowers, but donations if desired to St Mary's Church, Northchurch and the Jerusalem & Middle East Church Association c/o J. Wesley (Funeral Directors) Ltd., 344 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1HT. tel: (01442) 870326.

WADDINGTON - Sylvia Ruth Bowring (née Skimming) on April 23rd, aged 89, wife of Richard Waddington, loved and loving aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt. Funeral St Paul's, Knightsbridge, (Wilton Place) at 11 am Wednesday April 30th. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Nicholas' Convent, 67 Holland Park, London W11 3SJ.

WELHAM - Kenneth Edward died 22nd April aged 70. Most beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service on Wednesday 30th April at The Church of the Holy Name, Claygate. Family flowers only. Donations to CAFOD, Romero Close, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9TY.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BARTHORPE - To Peggy Barthorpe who died April 27th 1991 "those who knew will never forget you" A.

McDAUALL - John C. 1912-1979. Remembered today his birthday and always.

SAMUEL - In memory of Dr. H.S. Samuel (Sam) especially on his birthday, 27th April. Always with love, Lee.

BIRTHDAYS

CHARLOTTE, wishing you a very happy 18th birthday! Love, mummy, daddy and Sarah xxx.

DAVID BLOCK - Happy 50th birthday. Lots of love from Anne, Francesca, Jacqueline and all at no.24

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOVER, wherever you are. Longing for you here. XXXXXXXX

SERVICES

LET the experts help you to know your Ancestors. Write Achievements founded 1961, Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA.

WANTED

ADVENTURERS Required. Fossicking field trip. Australian goldfields. Tel: 01904 268637.

ROLEX & CARTIER wanted. High cash prices paid. 0171 493 5396 or visit 31 Park Lane W1.

TICKETS FOR SALE

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
It is illegal to buy or sell non-debenture tickets for WIMBLEDON other than through AUTHORISED AGENTS of THE WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

DINING/Boardroom table, Georgian style, pedestal legs, approx 12ft long, 3 removable sections plus 10 leather upholstered chairs. 0171 2267277 (office).

YORK PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta flagstones & floor tiles. Cobble setts, stone troughs, masonry service. Nat & [illegible] delivery. Hazell 01380 860039 (Wilts)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

AUGUST Forster model upright black upright piano with stool, in mint condition, £4750. Tel: 0171 244 5577/5666.

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper 1847-1996 in presentation folder £18.00 inc p&p. Newsreel year videos avail. Tel/Fax 01934-412844 9pm 7 days.

FLOWERS BY POST year round. 12 Carnations £10.00, 18 £13.00, 12 Carnations & 25 Freesias £18.00, 25 Freesias £10.50, 24 Carnations & 25 Freesias £24.50. Card and message inc. La Neuve Maison Nursery, St Saviour's, Guernsey, CI. Tel 01481 63052. CC's. Fax 01481 66013

FLATSHARE

HYDE PK Fem has, superb m/r, TV, phone, open fire. Mon-Fri £125. 0171 7242273.

WANDSWORTH A single room + bathroom avail, to prof n/s male/female to share pvt house. Quiet location and easy access. £70pw. Eves 0181 8703983.

W1 Mayfair (Park Lane), luxury apt, c/r, all amenities, £180pw+bills. 0468 918663.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

CARETAKER required for villa in South of France near Grasse. Suit retired married couple accommodation provided, garden and household duties. Call for details Mr Neilsen 0171 409 0445

NANNY Wanted for loving American couple and one son, 14 months. Fun and travel. NNEB required. Net £250 pw. Reverse charges 001-630 420 1794

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ARKELL, DAVID of 49 Endell Street, London WC2 died on 3 April 1997 particulars to GREGORY ROWCLIFFE & MILNERS Solicitors of 1 BEDFORD ROW, LONDON WC1R 4BZ (Ref: TWW) before 27 June 1997

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

OBITUARIES

PETER EARLE

Peter Earle, reporter, died on April 6 aged 71. He was born on November 4, 1925.

As an investigative reporter, Peter Earle was without peer. Over a 25-year period his scoops for the *News of the World* embraced gangland murders, organised crime, high-class vice rings, Cold War intrigues, espionage and infidelities of politicians.

Earle's inquiry into a call-girl network organised by society osteopath Stephen Ward snowballed into the Profumo affair, the biggest scandal of the 1960s. It was the first of many front-page stories he obtained for the *News of the World* which he joined when the paper absorbed the *Empire News*.

Stafford Somerfield, then Editor of the *News of the World*, was at first bemused by Earle's Dickensian mannerisms. But he quickly realised he had taken on board someone special. When exasperated executives complained that Earle had not been seen in the office for days he would beam. "He must be on something big. He'll surface in his own time," he would reply. And Earle justified his confidence with a string of exclusives. For months a *Daily Express* reporter was assigned to spend evenings in the Tipperary bar in Fleet Street, one of Earle's haunts, to eavesdrop on his conversations.

He had an amazing network of contacts whose identities he assiduously guarded. A colleague who occupied an adjacent desk in the newsroom of the *News of the World* in Bouverie Street often took his calls. "It's Barney the Snake," a voice would rasp. "Tell him to be in the usual place." Or it could be Black Rod, the Fiery Horseman, Marley's Ghost, the Old Pretender or the Brigadier, all anxious to confide in Earle because they trusted him.

Barney the Snake, in fact, was a wealthy property developer who had once been an enforcer for Jack "Spot" Comyn, a London gangleader in the 1950s. The Fiery Rovers and Black Rod worked in the Lord Chancellor's Office. Senior Scotland Yard detectives, barristers, men from MI5 and MI6 and a host of Soho denizens were also among his contacts. It was an MI5 man who told Earle that Georgi Markov, a Bulgarian dissident found dead near Aldwych Tube station, did not die from a heart attack but had been murdered by an East German political assassin who used a poison tipped umbrella.

When he heard from an underworld contact that a notorious gang of south London villains had resorted to torturing people they did not care for, Earle began a one-man crusade. Because the gang had friends at Scotland Yard who tipped them off about police inquiries, an outsider Gerald McArthur, an assistant Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, was secretly called in by the Home Office to investigate.

He had weekly meetings with Earle who updated him on the Richardson gang's activities. The inquiry ended in the sensational torture trial at the Old Bailey when evidence of electric shock torture and the extraction of teeth and toenails by a homicidal lunatic shocked Britain.

Earle was the first reporter to recognise the menace of the Kray twins who were showing an interest in the mushrooming gaming scene in London. The profits were sufficient to interest the New York mafia who sent a team of lawyers to check and, if reports were favourable, arrange dealings with the Krays. Film tough guy, George Raft, heavily in debt to the mob, was sent from New York as celebrity host at one club. The profits from unrestricted gaming were enormous but when shooters and champagne corks started popping simultaneously something had to be done.

A man from the Home Office contacted Earle. "The Home Secretary reckons you know more about this business than anyone. What's your advice?" After giving a comprehensive rundown of the gambling scene, Earle said: "Tell the Home Secretary he can start by making Mr Raft a prohibited immigrant." A few weeks later, Raft, who usually played a gangster in his Warner Brother days, was deported from Britain.

Earle, a kindly, courteous and humorous man, made daily excursions into shady Soho clubs, seedy pubs, expensive West End bars and nightclubs. He was once tailed by a detective. Earle spotted him in a third pub and led him all over London by taxi. In the 13th pub he ordered his usual large Scotch and instructed the barman to send one to the chap in the corner with the message: "I'm heading for the Shakespeare and I'll be in the Wig and Pen by 5.30."

The tail joined Earle at the bar and sighed: "Keeping up with you has been one of the toughest assignments I've had. The yard will never pay my drinks bill."

"My dear fellow, if you need confirmation I'll be happy to supply it," Earle, a 60-cigarette and a bottle of Scotch a day man, assured him.

In keeping with his eccentric character, Peter Earle had the unusual distinction during the Second World War of serving in both the RAF and then the Army Intelligence Corps in India.

The Wig and Pen, one of Earle's favourite watering holes, used to be festooned with cartoons of Fleet Street eccentrics and characters. A drawing of Earle was on the wall alongside the likes of crime novelist Edgar Wallace and press baron Lord Northcliffe.

He was once dispatched to interview a titled lady about her troubled matrimonial situation. "But how do I know you are from the *News of the World*," she asked him suspiciously. Earle spread his arms in despair. "Madam," he retorted testily, "I've already admitted it."

Peter Earle, who retired to Dorset, leaves a widow, Hazel, a son and three daughters.

JEAN LOUIS

Jean Louis, costume designer, died in Palm Springs, California, on April 20 aged 89. He was born in Paris on October 5, 1907.

HOLLYWOOD fashion in the 1940s and 1950s was dominated by a handful of designers, among them the tiny, energetic Edith Head at Paramount and the courtly Parisian Jean Louis at Columbia. Despite spending most of his life on the West Coast of America, Louis always managed to sound as though he had just stepped off the plane from France.

Numerous showstopping gowns flowed from his atelier at Columbia, where he was chief designer for twenty years. Two passed into showbusiness history. The first was worn by Rita Hayworth in *Gilda* (1946), as she shimmied her way through the nightclub number *Put the Blame on Mame*. It was a black satin strapless gown with matching gloves, one of which she peeled off and tossed to the howling audience. The dress started a fashion trend which has still not gone out of style.

The other was the sparkling dress which Marilyn Monroe wore for her breathless rendition of *Happy Birthday* to President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden in 1962. This had taken months to prepare and required Monroe to undergo several fittings. There were no zips — on the evening she had to be sewn into it, giving new meaning to the term figure-hugging — and it certainly made an arresting spectacle for those watching. Hundreds of strategically placed brilliants shimmered over the flesh-coloured cloth. Under the spotlight, Monroe seemed to be clothed in nothing but reflected light.

Jean Louis Berthault trained under the designer Agnes Drecoll in Paris. He took a holiday in New York in 1935, casually submitted his sketches to the Hattie Carnegie design firm and was asked to stay. The suit which he designed for them in 1937 — consisting of a fitted buttoned jacket with narrow waist and long narrow skirt — was worn by all the fashionable American women that year: the Duchess of Windsor and Mrs Harry Cohn among them. The latter's husband was the founder of Columbia and, at her urging, Jean Louis was brought to Hollywood in 1944 and installed as chief designer for the studio.

For several years, he was the only dress designer to receive a full film credit: "Gowns by Jean Louis". He was nominated 14 times for an Oscar, for work on, among others, *Born Yesterday*, *From Here to Eternity*, *A Star is Born*, *Pal Joey*, *Bell Book and Candle* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. He finally won it for dressing Judy Holliday in *The Solid Gold Cadillac* (1956).

The other platform for his work during the 1950s was *The Loretta Young Show*, which ran on NBC. Loretta Young, who was his wife Maggy's best friend (and later his second wife), chose Louis as her designer for 52 episodes: "I learnt never, ever to tell him what I wanted, what colour, what shape. I learnt to tell him only how I wanted to feel and what time of day the scene was. It always worked." Indeed, it worked so well that many women who watched the show did so only to find out what Loretta Young would be wearing next.

With the waning of the studio system in the early 1960s, Jean Louis left Columbia, set up a salon in Beverly Hills and freelanced. Actresses continued to insist in their contracts that he would be their designer on a film, not least because he was expert at disguising flaws in a woman's figure. They also appreciated the dramatic touches of a Jean Louis original, the long trains, for example, which were then used by most contemporary designers only on wedding gowns.

Louis continued to work with his old friend Marlene Dietrich. For her latterday career as a Las Vegas chanteuse, he designed those disturbingly transparent gowns which managed to make her look as if she was wearing nothing but jewels and fur.

In 1980 Nancy Reagan gave him Washington's seal of approval when she wore his black silk jacquard dress on the night her husband was elected President: *The New York Times* called it "the landslide look".

Jean Louis retired in 1988. His first wife predeceased him in 1987 and in 1993 he married his friend Loretta Young, who survives him. There were no children.

Rita Hayworth in *Gilda* (1946) shimmies her way through the nightclub number *Put the Blame on Mame*

SIR THOMAS BAZLEY, Bt

Sir Thomas Bazley, Bt, country landowner, died on April 14 aged 89. He was born on October 5, 1907.

THOMAS BAZLEY, according to friends, wrote his own epitaph. He had, he would frequently say, "loved every minute of every day of every year" — and if that was not technically true, he certainly spent much of his time trying to make it so. He was one of the last of his kind. Inheriting a Cotswold estate embracing 4,000 acres and three whole villages, he was free to indulge his every interest and whim — of which there were many.

They included alternative medicine and organic farming, architecture, conservation, classical music, current affairs and politics. He so impressed Harold Macmillan when they met that the Prime Minister offered to find him a safe seat. He was nonplussed when Bazley replied that not only did he not have the time, but he was a deeply committed Liberal.

A vegetarian who fortified his diet with vitamin pills, he helped to found the highly successful Marigold Health Foods, of which he remained a director until he died. He recently completed a book on alternative medicine.

But perhaps his greatest contribution to posterity was the conservation of his Gloucestershire estate. Not only did he have to approve all building work, insisting on the use of local stone, but he sought to preserve its lifestyle — without restraining too much the local economy.

He encouraged modern architecture where appropriate, fiercely attacking the apostles of neo-Georgianism. He had aspired to be an architect himself, but confessed that the maths involved would have been too much for him. As it was he contented himself with his own schemes. He had one house built in a wood, aptly named The Folly, and designed his own solar-heated swimming pool. It worked, his family agreed — up to a point.

He was born Thomas Stafford Bazley at Hatherop Castle, a one-time Elizabethan manor house overlooking the River Coln, which, however, has been rebuilt in the last century. Edward VII had considered it when looking for a country retreat, but eventually opted for Sandringham which offered better shooting.

The Bazleys were relatively new to the landed gentry. Thomas's great-grandfather was a Victorian philanthropist who made a fortune out of cotton mills in Lancashire before serving as a Liberal MP for 22 years. Gladstone's letter in 1869 conferring the baronetcy is still among the family memorabilia.

Thomas's father died when he was four, and eight years later he inherited the title from his grandfather. He therefore went as the third baronet to Harrow, which he detested, and Magdalen College, Oxford, to read politics, philosophy and economics. His Oxford contemporaries included Douglas Jay who became a close lifelong friend. Ill health forced him to come down without taking his degree, however — a disappointment he never quite got over.

For the same reason he was passed unfit for the Armed Forces during the war. He worked for the intelligence services and the Ministry of Information instead and spent part of the war at Bletchley Park. A prodigious memory was among his assets.

Hatherop Castle had been used as a training ground for Special Operations Executive agents during the war — and later became a preparatory school. Bazley therefore returned in 1945 to live elsewhere on the estate.

More recently still he moved into Eastleach Downs Farm, where he started to introduce organic methods. While driving in Manchester he once found himself passing a street called Bazley Street. He bought the street sign from the council and erected it on his drive.

He supported a number of charities. These included the Noah's Ark Venture, set up in his grounds, where deprived children from London spent country holidays. Anneka Rice opened an extension there last year.

He also patronised the arts, especially music, inviting young musicians to give concerts in the grounds. Nigel Kennedy was among them. More recently Bazley had been helping the young Belize pianist and composer Francis Reneau.

He entertained frequently and well, spending hours over the guest lists in order to ensure a good mix. Himself a voracious reader of the broadsheets he expected the same of his guests whom he liked to catch out with riddles based on the news. He wrote to the papers, including *The Times*, hardly less often than he read them. His favourite theme was a stream of invective against the Tories — especially his *bête noire* Margaret Thatcher.

A lean, wiry, bespectacled man with a huge sense of fun, he saw himself as living proof of the benefits of alternative medicine. He was still playing badminton at 87. He reluctantly wore a hearing aid in later years, but mislaid it daily. He therefore turned up the volume of his stereo until the house vibrated with music, from Beethoven to Bartok.

He was however a notoriously bad driver, amassing a total of 42 motoring offences. He once stopped to ask the way of a policeman, who promised to tell him if he would drive his car off his foot. Kind and generous to a fault and incurably stubborn, he sometimes acknowledged his shortcomings, promising to pay more heed to those around him before indulging his latest caprice.

He met his wife Carmen during the war when, after serving as a dispatch rider, she worked as a tri-lingual secretary in his department. They married in 1945 and Sir Thomas Bazley, who died while happily planning for his 90th birthday celebrations later this year, is survived by her, their three sons and two daughters.

HIS HON JOHN BURKETT BAKER

His Hon John Burkett Baker, QC, circuit judge, 1978-96, died of cancer on April 17 aged 65. He was born on September 17, 1931.

AS THE circuit judge at Ilford, John Burkett Baker brought to every case a determination that the parties before him should know that their dispute had been fully considered. His shrewd and fair approach to his work earned him a reputation as an excellent judge.

Yet he was originally intended for the Roman Catholic priesthood, and it was only while he was studying with the White Fathers at Bishop's Waltham that he changed course. He then entered University College, Exeter, where he read law.

After graduating, he served for four years as an officer in the Royal Air Force. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1957. On leaving the RAF he became the pupil of Rodney Bax. Then, in 1958, he joined the chambers of Michael Talbot at 1 Essex Court in the Temple. He soon acquired a good Common Law practice on what was then the Oxford Circuit. His thorough preparation of his cases, incisive cross-examination, and concise submissions in plain language, with an occasional shaft of dry wit, were attractive to judges and jurors alike. Between 1969 and 1975, he was prosecuting counsel for the DHSS.

In 1970, he became a Deputy Chairman of Shropshire Quarter Sessions and later a Crown Court Recorder. In 1975, he took Silk.

Against this background he was a natural choice for the circuit bench, to which he was appointed in 1977. Over the following years, he sat in the Crown Courts at St Albans and Snaresbrook. Additionally he sat each year at the Old Bailey and in the Family Division. He had a special interest in family work, and for a time was a tutor in that subject for the Judicial Studies Board in seminars held for Assistant Recorders. His last move was to Ilford — a court with a considerable amount of family work — where he sat until his retirement through ill-health last year.

Throughout his life John Baker was a devout Roman Catholic, who took an active part in the life of his Church. He was a governor of the Holy Family Convent in Enfield, 1984-89. He was also a member of the Thomas More Society. One of the last public functions he attended was the celebration in Manchester of the 50 years work of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, of which he was chairman, 1981-83. The Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice was conferred upon him in 1986.

He married in 1955 a fellow student at Exeter, Margaret Smeaton, with whom he had ten children. His family and the theatre — he was a talented amateur actor and singer — were, apart from the law, his two great interests in life. His wife, seven daughters and two of his three sons survive him.

ON THIS DAY

April 26, 1937

A battle began when striking miners tried to prevent those not on strike from going down a pit for a night shift. The following night strikers attacked the police. The disturbances led to a midnight sitting of Worksop magistrates.

RIOT IN MINING VILLAGE

BATON CHARGES BY POLICE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

WORKSOP, April 25.

After a night of terror on Friday, there was another serious riot at Barcotes, the colliery village attached to Harworth Colliery, late last night and in the early hours of this morning. The circumstances of the two disturbances were quite different. On Friday a determined attack was made to prevent the workers still employed at the colliery from descending the pit for the night-shift and there were several street battles between the police and strikers. On Saturday night strikers attacked the police: bricks and stones were thrown, sticks were freely used and both police and strikers suffered many casualties.

The trouble began just before midnight when the police visited a dance hall where a dance organized by the strikers was in progress in aid of the children's relief fund. The object of the police was to make investigations into Friday's disturbances and to arrest several men against whom warrants had been issued by the Worksop Magistrates late on Saturday. A crowd of men left the Comrades' Club in the village and, armed with railings torn from the fence surrounding the club, attacked the police. A police car was overturned and completely wrecked. Another car belonging to a Derbyshire police officer was damaged, and every window in Superintendent Wilson's car was broken. The Barcotes Club was partly wrecked and every window in the Barcotes Institute was smashed.

The situation became so ugly about 1 o'clock this morning that the police were compelled to deliver several baton charges. The result was that many strikers were injured as well as police officers.

The Worksop magistrates had a special sitting at midnight, when five men, alleged to have taken part in Friday night's disturbances, were brought before them.

The accused were MICHAEL KANE, president of the Harworth Miners' Association, Scrooby Road, Barcotes; JAMES MOULD, Essex Road, Barcotes; CORNELIUS FERGUSON, Essex Drive, Barcotes; FRANK JOBSON, Scrooby Road, Barcotes; and SAMUEL McCOOMBE, Galway Terrace, Barcotes. They were charged with besetting the approach to the colliery with a view to compelling a miner to abstain from doing work which he had a legal right to do. Only formal evidence of arrest was given.

Inspector Pierre asked for a remand in custody until Monday.

Kane said they pleaded "Not Guilty" and desired legal aid. They also wanted bail so that they could instruct their solicitor.

Inspector Pierre said that every facility would be granted to the men to get in touch with their legal advisers.

Kane.- "I do not see any harm in our being granted bail. It is not as if we were criminals or anything like that. No harm will be occasioned."

The police objected to bail and the men were remanded in custody until Monday.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

FLORENCE LILIAN CHEADLE late of BOURTON HOUSE, 26 GREENHILL RD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, WIDOW died on 7 FEBRUARY 1997. Particulars to Black, Graf & Co. 14/15 College Crescent, London, NW3 5LL before 25 JUNE 1997

JANSON, FREDERICK ANTHONY JAMES of 29 Burton Court, Franklins Row, London SW3 died on 26 March 1997 particulars to GREGORY ROWCLIFFE & MILNERS Solicitors of 1 BEDFORD ROW, LONDON WC1R 4BZ (Ref: TWW) before 27 June 1997

LEWIS, ADELE late of 13 NORTHWAYS, COLLEGE CRESCENT, LONDON NW3, WIDOW died on 21 DECEMBER 1996. Particulars to Black, Graf & Co. 14/15 College Crescent London NW3 5LL before 30 JUNE 1997

LYLE, RICHARD PETER of 305 Harwood Court, Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 6JF (formerly of 6 Spenwell House, Lytton Grove, Putney, London SW15 2EU) died on 1 May 1996 particulars to RAYNER DE WOLFE Solicitors of 31 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON WC1B 5HJ (Ref: DAVID H BARCHAN) before 27 June 1997

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

SEAT SALE Entebbe/Dar fr £399 rtn also Nairobi fr £325, Lagos, Joburg. Call Cruxton Travel 0171 306 3112 atol 3348 e mail: cruxton@dircon.co.uk.

LEGAL NOTICES

Would JOHN BURROWS, child of SAMUEL BURROWS and DOROTHY BURROWS (nee SKINNER) or any person knowing his whereabouts or claiming to be related to him or FRED BURROWS deceased, please contact The Public Trustee of Queensland GPO Box 2251 Brisbane Queensland Australia 4001 Quoting Reference E126-2272968 and setting out full details of their claims. M. Browne Regional Manager Brisbane South Region Public Trustee of Queensland

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity: The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators Charitable Trust Fund

Scheme to widen the charity's beneficiary class

Reference: CF-45325-CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at THE OFFICES OF BERRYMANS SOLICITORS, SALISBURY HOUSE, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5QN or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PATRON for son 13 very bright, dyslexic, popular but bullied very able musically/drama, awaits news of scholarship to go to well known independent school of like-minded children. State school does not fully meet needs. Relatively low one wage family need patron to help with school fees or suggest course of funding. Please Reply to Box No 4683

ST.MAUR'S CONVENT, Weybridge. June 7th 1997, 3.30pm. An afternoon for Old Girls, Former Staff and Friends to say 'Good-Bye' to the Sisters. Please write to Sister Mary Murphy for information.

ANIMALS IN NEED

Please help us give compassionate care to abused and abandoned cats and dogs and those whose owners have died or are seriously ill. Our sanctuary provides daily forest walks for dogs, also a [illegible] service in the poorer city areas. We spay not slay.

Donations to:
WOODSIDE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST,
[illegible], Plymouth PL7 5ED
(Reg Charity No [illegible])

"In lieu of flowers, donations to the RSPB"

What more effective tribute could there be for a friend or relative who loved the countryside and wild birds?

The RSPB is the charity that takes action for wild birds and the environment. For details on how to make a donation that is a lasting tribute to a loved one, just phone **Elaine McHugh** on 01767 680551.

RSPB The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Regd charity no 207076.

COURT & SOCIAL

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to:
Mrs J. Neenan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times,
PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.
Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax 0171 782 7725

Please include in all correspondence:
a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent,
a daytime and home telephone number and address.

Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

Advertising Rate is £15.28 per line inc VAT.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES

MONDAY & TUESDAY	9AM-6.30PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	9AM-8PM
FRIDAY	9AM-6PM
SATURDAY	9AM-4PM
SUNDAY	10AM-4PM

TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

NEWS

Major takes command for last week

■ John Major has taken personal control of the Conservative election campaign amid indications of a serious split over tactics at Central Office.

Tory officials have confirmed that the Prime Minister is virtually running operations from Downing Street and his battle bus. The split is on whether Europe or the economy should have been the main campaign theme .... **Pages 1, 11-16, 22, 23**

Drought fears persist despite rain

■ Rain swept across most of Britain giving welcome relief to gardeners and farmers, especially in the South East which had its first significant rain for five weeks. But many more weeks of wet weather are needed to top up reservoirs .... **Page 1**

IRA disrupts roads

Unprecedented security plans for polling day were announced by the Home Office as the IRA disrupted motorways again... **Page 2**

Touch of glass

A woman keen to keep up the middle-class look of her road was caught sprinkling glass on a neighbour's drive to deter him parking his pick-up truck. **Page 3**

Giant planet found

US astronomers have found a giant planet in orbit around a star very similar to our Sun..... **Page 4**

Teenage rampage

Two teenage burglars who targeted pensioners to finance their drugs habit had been arrested 155 times as they looked for likely victims, a court was told ... **Page 5**

SAS man jailed

An SAS sniper was jailed for supplying arms and ammunition to a man he believed to be an East End gang leader .... **Page 6**

Preachers guilty

Street preachers claimed persecution after a father and daughter were found guilty of obstructing police.................................. **Page 8**

Dinosaurs' graveyard

Remains of primitive birds, mammals and dinosaurs have been found in a remote region of northern China .... **Page 17**

Mongol dream dashed

Mongolia's hope of a better life under democracy are fading. Poverty is increasing .... **Page 18**

Pressure on Juppé

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, was under fire as cracks appeared in his centre-right majority's election campaign **Page 19**

Grey power

As Pope John Paul II visibly declines, the *éminence grise* of the Vatican, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Bavaria, is building an ever higher profile .... **Page 20**

Child artist discovered, 11 years late

■ Any mother would be excited to see a drawing by her son used to illustrate the television weather forecast. But they wouldn't all be as puzzled as Diana Coode. Her son is a 20-year-old art student. He sent in the drawing 11 years ago .... **Page 5**

NATURE NOTES

Painted Lady
(Becketta oldlabora)

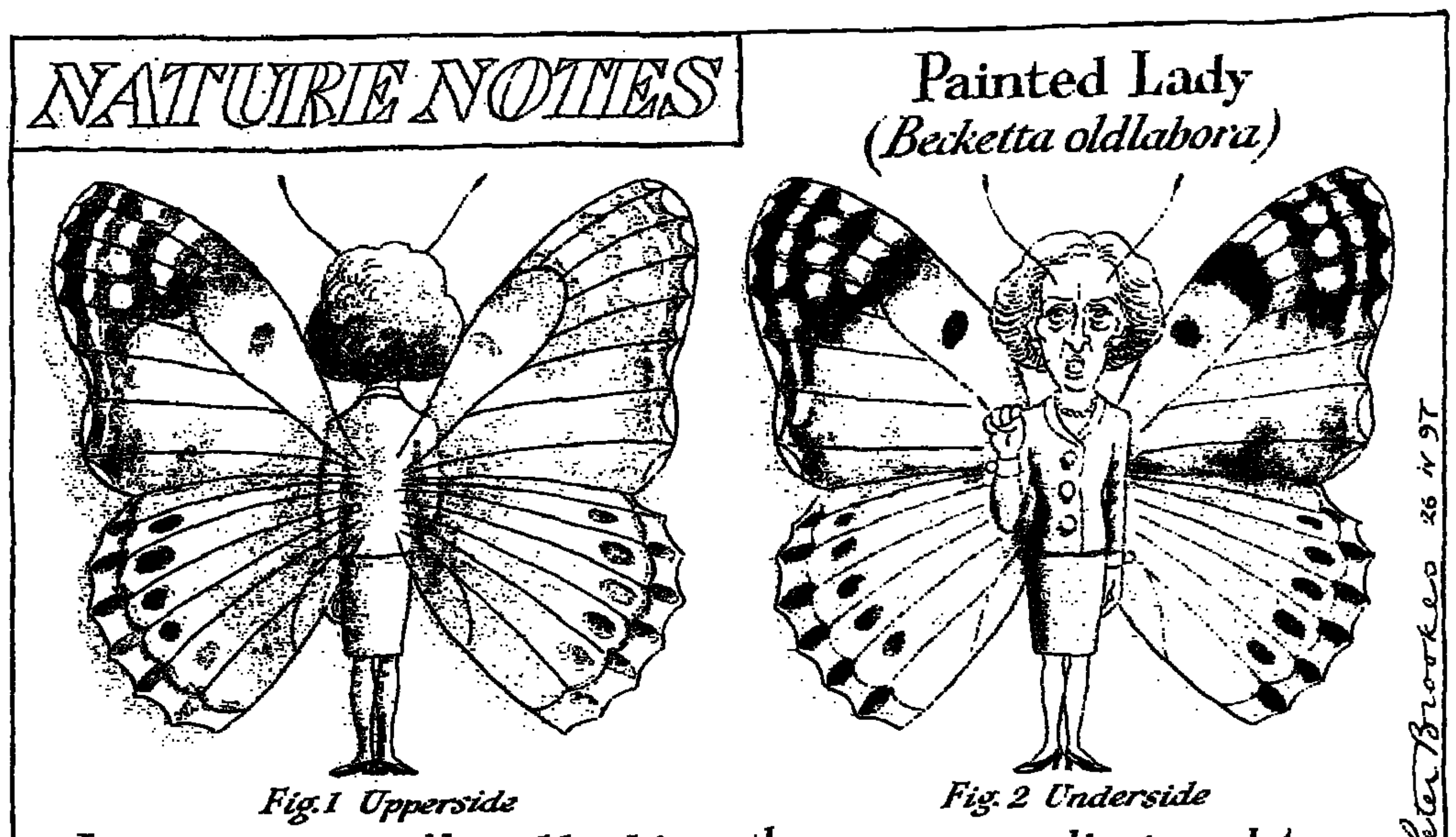


Fig.1 Upperside *Fig. 2 Underside*

It uses its top profile to blend in with new surroundings and to disguise the true colouring beneath. Flutters to deceive.

OPINION

Below the belt: Labour lies are particularly uncomfortable from a Labour leader who has tried to build his reputation on trust and decency. That does not sit easily beside the tactic of terrifying pensioners .... **Page 23**

Springtime in Paris: Eurosceptics here require the Communists in France to outperform present expectations — an *entente* improbable but possibly *cordiale*...... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Major's capacity to govern; politics and farmers. **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The past month has witnessed the most sustained act of political discipline ever staged in peacetime Britain. A party, a mass movement, an entire political generation, has been chloroformed .... **Page 22**

Simon Barnes: We don't appreciate rain in this country. This is a cold damp island and in the long, dark days we ache for the sun .... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Peter Earle, journalist; **Sir Thomas Bazley**, country landowner .... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Regan thwarted: The Co-operative Wholesale Society emerged victorious from a High Court hearing at which the judge described Andrew Regan's aborted takeover bid as clearly dishonest . **Page 27**

Economy: The British economy grew at its fastest rate for more than two years in the first quarter of 1997, led by the service sector...... **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 18.8 to close at 4369.7. Sterling rose from 99.6 to 99.7 after a fall from $1.6265 to $1.6230 but a rise from DM2.7927 to DM2.7977 .... **Page 30**

SPORT

Motor racing: Eddie Irvine was in provisional pole position after the free practice session for tomorrow's San Marino Grand Prix. **Page 52**

Cricket: Hove, normally the most sedate venue in county cricket, is to play host to a Sunday league game under floodlights .... **Page 52**

Rugby union: Wasps can clinch their second Courage Clubs Championship title today at Northampton **Page 48**

CAR 97

Women competing in Formula One .... **Page 1**

ARTS

Tory heritage: "Have the past 18 years in the arts world been a Nightmare in Yobville Manor?" asks Richard Morrison **Page 21**

Curtain up: Emmanuelle Béart, of *Manon des Sources*, makes her British stage debut .... **Page 21**

Rude vigour: Geoff Schumann's revue-stye show at Stratford East revels in *hilarious political incorrectness*................... **Page 21**

Delilah delights: Scottish Opera has staged *Samson and Delilah* splendidly on a shoestring......... **Page 21**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Roberto Alagna: The fourth tenor is back **Page 8**
Drugs trail: Who is producing Ecstasy?... **Page 23**
House Style: ...... **Page 37**

Weekend

Club scene: London clubs go rural .... **Pages 1, 2**

Property: Garages; house swaps................ **Pages 7, 8**
Home life: My friend the mother-in-law....... **Page 11**

10 15

Dream team: 1015's fantasy Cabinet.............. **Page 6**
Young fiction: Novelist Bidisha is 18 .... **Page 8**

directory

Art of sport: The pitch invades the gallery... **Page 4**
Food: .... **Page 7**
What's on: ...... **Pages 15-21**
TV, radio guide: **23-52**

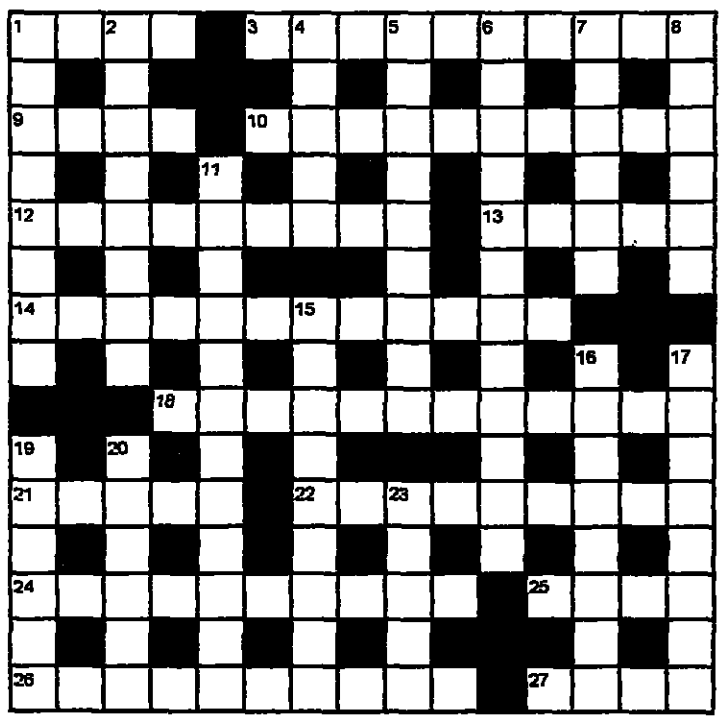
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,464

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



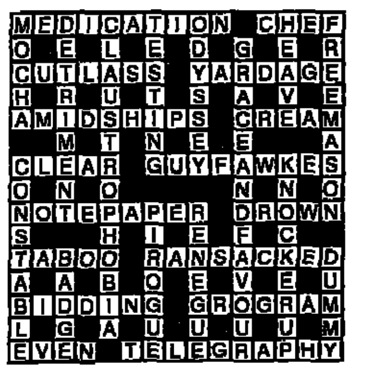
ACROSS

1 Brawn made from meat (4).
3 Supplier of tanks bringing tears (10).
9 One who draws out of a bank (4).
10 Men on jury confused about a mechanic (10).
12 Reduces a tip and makes an impression (4,1,4).
13 Erica taking old language (5).
14 Scene of action where William fought, with reason (12).
18 Called home before — I had a meal in between (12).
21 Roman Catholic holding priest's keepsake (5).
22 Fruit in tree can go off (9).
24 Big groups of companies like this can expect support from above (10).
25 Praise thus returned two-fold (4).
26 One of the sportsmen who got booked twice (10).
27 Cursed missing sailor and cast off? (4).

DOWN

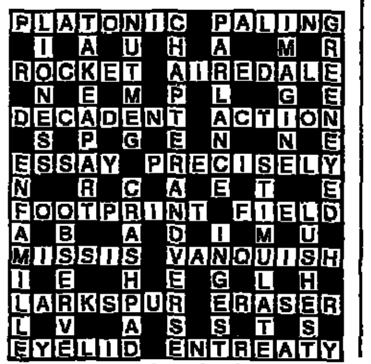
1 Smelling salts found in city block (4,4).
2 A detente arranged but it's lacking in teeth (8).
4 Smell of an eel cut up (5).
5 Burying creature destroying the marrow (9).
6 To bargain selfishly, we all had need to get nasty (5,3,4).
7 Prompt about going on guard (6).
8 Sound suppressor for a detection device (6).
11 Bullet also a measure that restrained a prisoner (4,3,5).
15 University in no position to give some degrees? (9).
16 Column headings in large letters (8).
17 Person axed like this doesn't have a bean (8).
19 This system had nothing the Romans didn't have (6).
20 Phil's instrument in France (6).
23 So-called fish dance (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,458



MEDICATION CHEF
O E L E D G E R
CUTLASS YARDAGE
H R U T S A V E
AMIDSHIPS CREAM
M T N E E A
CLEAR GUYFAWKES
O N O N N O
NOTEPAPER DROWN
S H I E F C
TABOO RANSACKED
A A B O E V E U
BIDDING GROGRAM
L G A U U U U M
EVEN TELEGRAPHY

Solution to Puzzle No 20,463



PLATONIC PALING
I A U H A M R
ROCKET AIREDALE
N E M P L G E
DECADENT ACTION
S P G E N N E
ESSAY PRECISELY
N R C A E T E
FOOTPRINT FIELD
A B A D I M U
MISSIS VANQUISH
I E H E G L H
LARKSPUR ERASER
L V A S S T S
EYELID ENTREATY

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *O B Harper, London; N A M Butler, Wivenhoe, Essex; N Delaney, Dublin; C V G Harries, Stoke Bishop, Bristol; M Rippin, Market Drayton, Shropshire.*

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kitling Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Saturday, April 26, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	**0336 444 910**
UK Roads - All regions	**0336 401 410**
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	Scotland	416 340
Wales	416 335	N. Ireland	416 341
Midlands	416 336	London	416 342
East Anglia	416 337	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
N.West	416 338		
N. East	416 339		

Metfax Marine
Inshore leisure forecasts 416 398

World City Weather The Met. Office

153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast

by **Phone** dial	0336 411216
by **Fax** (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset.
you may have to set to poll receive mode

AA Developments Ltd.
Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5 42 am Sun sets: 8 16 pm
Moon sets 8.15 am Moon rises .

Last quarter April 30

London 8 16 pm to 5 40 am
Bristol 8.25 pm to 5.50 am
Edinburgh 8 42 pm to 5 38 am
Manchester 8 30 pm to 5 43 am
Penzance 8 33 pm to 6 06 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5 40 am Sun sets: 8 17 pm
Moon sets 9.06 am Moon rises 12.04 am

Last quarter April 30

London 8 17 pm to 5.38 am
Bristol 8.27 pm to 5.48 am
Edinburgh 8 44 pm to 5.36 am
Manchester 8 32 pm to 5 41 am
Penzance 8.35 pm to 6.04 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	04.45	7.2	17.03	7.2
Aberdeen	04.11	4.0	16.35	4.0
Avonmouth	10.09	12.9	22.28	12.7
Belfast	01.42	3.4	14.08	3.4
Cardiff	09.55	11.9	22.14	11.8
Devonport	08.48	5.3	21.03	5.3
Dover	01.38	6.5	13.57	6.5
Dublin (N Wall)	02.15	3.9	14.45	3.8
Falmouth	08.19	5.1	20.34	5.1
Greenock	03.31	3.2	15.37	3.2
Harwich	02.44	3.9	15.01	3.9
Holyhead	01.03	5.4	13.23	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	09.15	8.4	21.36	8.2
Ilfracombe	08.55	8.9	21.14	8.8
King's Lynn	09.18	6.5	21.37	6.3
Leith	05.37	5.3	18.00	5.2
Liverpool	01.57	9.3	14.15	9.1
Lowestoft	00.14	2.4	12.30	2.4
Margate	02.45	4.7	15.05	4.7
Milford Haven	09.09	6.7	21.29	6.6
Newquay	08.01	6.7	20.21	6.6
Oban	08.27	3.7	20.55	3.8
Penzance	07.30	5.2	19.50	5.3
Portland	10.02	1.9	22.12	1.9
Portsmouth	02.03	4.5	14.28	4.5
Shoreham	01.48	6.1	14.14	5.9
Southampton	01.27	4.4	13.48	4.4
Swansea	09.12	8.9	21.31	8.9
Tees	06.33	5.2	18.57	5.2
Walton-on-N	02.37	4.0	14.53	4.0

All times BST. Hights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 18C (64F); lowest day max: Bingley, West Yorkshire, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Rhyl, Denbighshire, 1.22in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 13.9hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** some central and south-eastern parts of England will start dry but most areas will have a cloudy day with rain at times. The rain will become persistent in places, with some heavier bursts especially in the south. Towards late afternoon brighter weather should spread from the west.

Northern Ireland, north and east Scotland should start dry but cloud and rain elsewhere will gradually extend northeast, leaving only the far northeast of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland dry with some sunshine at the end of the day.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands:** a cloudy start but rain will spread from the west during the morning. Wind southeast, moderate. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cloudy with rain at times. Wind southeast, moderate or fresh. Max 8 to 10C (46-50F).

☐ **N Wales, NW & Cent N England, Lake Dist, IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** rain at times. Wind southeast, moderate or fresh. Max 10 to 12C (50-54F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** a wet start, then brightening during the late afternoon. Wind southeast, moderate. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland:** a dry bright start but cloud and outbreaks of rain will spread slowly from the south. Wind southeast, moderate or fresh. Max 8 to 10C (46-50F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny spells. Wind southeast, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** some rain in all areas, becoming drier again in the south later.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

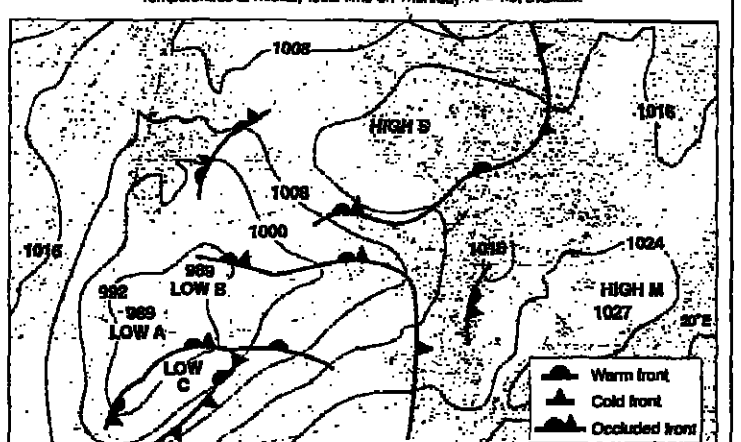
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Leuchars	10.2	0.01	10	50	s
Anglesey	-	0.92	11	52	r	Littlehmptn	1.0	0.16	11	52	r
Aspatria	-	0.20	9	48	r	London	-	0.17	13	55	r
Aviemore	11.4	0.01	12	54	s	Lowestoft	-	0.21	9	48	r
Belfast	-	*0.48*	*8*	*46*	*r*	*Manchester*	*0.2*	*0.38*	*8*	*46*	*r*
Birmingham	-	0.51	10	50	r	Margate	-	0.04	13	55	r
Bognor R	1.5	0.19	11	52	r	Minehead	X				
Bournem'th	X					Morecambe	-	0.46	8	46	r
Bristol	0.8	0.50	12	54	r	Newcastle	-	-	8	46	c
Buxton	-	*0.50*	*6*	*43*	*r*	*Newquay*	X				
Cardiff	1.4	0.73	11	52	r	Norwich	-	0.31	8	46	r
Clacton	X					Oxford	1.0	0.48	10	50	r
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	0.33	15	59	s
Colwyn Bay	-	0.91	9	48	r	Poole	0.6	0.26	14	57	r
Cromer	-	*0.25*	*7*	*45*	*r*	*Prestatyn*	*X*	*0.83*	*8*	*46*	*r*
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	0.9	0.64	10	50	r
Eastbourne	0.9	0.18	11	52	r	Ryde	1.8	0.17	11	52	r
Edinburgh	4.1	0.01	11	52	sh	Salcombe	5.5	0.28	16	61	s
Eskdalemuir	0.1	-	8	46	c	Sandown	2.0	0.17	11	52	r
Exmouth	*3.2*	*0.25*	*16*	*61*	*r*	*Saunton Snd*	*2.3*	*0.37*	*12*	*54*	*b*
Falmouth	5.9	0.15	15	59	b	Scarboro'	-	0.03	8	46	c
Fishguard	1.8	0.38	12	54	r	Shanklin	X	X	X	X	r
Folkestone	2.3	0.07	13	55	r	Shrewsbury	-	0.48	9	48	r
Glasgow	6.2	0.01	12	54	b	Skegness	X				
Guernsey	1.5	0.22	15	59	r	Southend	-	0.04	14	57	r
Hastings	1.0	0.17	12	54	r	Southport	-	0.36	8	46	r
Hayling I.	2.2	0.17	11	52	r	Southsea	1.7	0.16	11	52	sh
Herne Bay	-	0.01	13	55	r	Stornoway	13.9	-	11	52	s
Hove	0.3	0.15	13	55	r	Swanage	1.3	0.26	12	54	sh
Hunstanton	X	0.30	8	46	r	Teignmouth	5.0	0.23	17	63	r
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	0.4	0.48	14	57	c
Isle of Man	-	0.70	8	46	r	Tiree	8.8	-	11	52	s
Jersey	1.7	0.47	13	55	r	Torquay	4.8	0.20	18	64	s
Kinloss	9.7	0.09	11	52	s	Ventnor	1.8	0.24	11	52	r
Leeds	-	*0.37*	*7*	*45*	*r*	*West-s-mare*	1.5	0.61	13	55	r
Lerwick	10.8	0.01	6	43	s	Weymouth	1.4	0.25	12	54	r

ABROAD

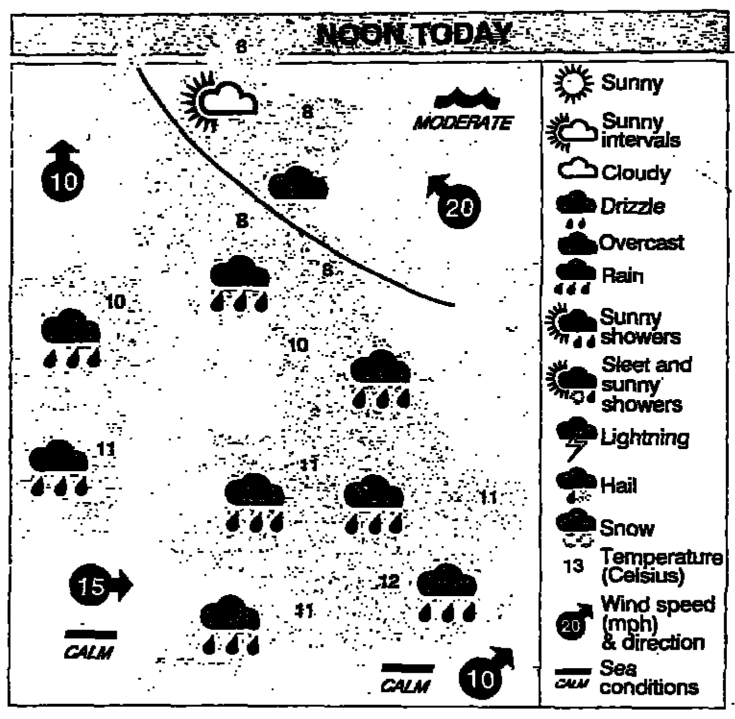
Ajaccio	16	61	s	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	19	66	s	Rome	15	59	s
Akrotiri	27	81	f	C'phagn	7	45	r	Malaga	19	66	f	S Fr'sco	16	61	s
Alex'dria	24	75	f	Dublin	13	55	c	Malta	18	64	s	S Paulo	26	79	f
Algiers	*19*	*66*	*f*	*Dubrovnik*	*14*	*57*	*s*	*Melb'rne*	*16*	*61*	*c*	*Salzburg*	*14*	*57*	*s*
Amst'dm	14	57	f	Faro	17	63	c	Mexico C	25	77	s	Santiago	23	73	s
Athens	20	68	s	Florence	18	64	s	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	19	66	s
B Aires	21	70	c	Frankfurt	17	63	s	Milan	17	63	s	Sing'por	30	86	f
Bahrain	25	77	s	Funchal	20	68	c	Montreal	12	54	s	St'kholm	8	46	f
Bangkok	*35*	*95*	*s*	*Geneva*	*17*	*63*	*s*	*Moscow*	*6*	*43*	*c*	*Strasb'rg*	*18*	*64*	*s*
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Munich	14	57	s	Sydney	26	79	f
Barcelona	18	64	s	Helsinki	8	46	s	N Delhi	36	97	s	Tangier	19	66	s
Beirut	27	81	f	Hong K	21	70	c	N York	12	54	f	Tel Aviv	31	88	s
Belgrade	9	48	f	Innsbrck	16	61	s	Nairobi	22	72	c	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	*16*	*61*	*s*	*Istanbul*	*9*	*48*	*f*	*Naples*	*17*	*63*	*s*	*Tokyo*	*18*	*64*	*f*
Bermuda	23	73	c	Jeddah	34	93	s	Nice	16	61	s	Toronto	15	59	f
Biarritz	19	66	s	Jo'burg	16	61	s	Oslo	3	37	sn	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	21	70	s	L Angels	22	72	s	Paris	17	63	s	Valencia	21	70	s
Brussels	16	61	s	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	23	73	s	Vanc'ver	13	55	s
Budapst	*13*	*55*	*s*	*Le Tquet*	*13*	*55*	*s*	*Perth*	*25*	*77*	*s*	*Venice*	*15*	*59*	*s*
Cairo	27	81	s	Lisbon	17	63	c	Prague	14	57	s	Vienna	13	55	s
Cape Tn	19	66	f	Locarno	16	61	s	Reykjavik	4	39	h	Warsaw	14	57	s
Ch'church	10	50	X	Luxembg	14	57	s	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	16	61	c
Chicago	9	48	f	Luxor	42	108	s	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wel'ngton	11	52	X
Cologne	*15*	*59*	*s*	*Madrid*	*19*	*66*	*s*	*Riyadh*	*32*	*90*	*s*	*Zurich*	*17*	*63*	*s*

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: lows A, B and C will move northeast; A and B will change little but C will decline; high B will build slightly but will drift east; high M will remain stationary with little change in central pressure

NOON TODAY



TORONTO, NEW YORK, PARIS

Concorde between Heathrow and Toronto ● five nights at Sheraton ● Niagara with helicopter ● city tour ● harbour cruise ● Phantom of the Opera ● BA 747 ● depart 10 July, 29 August or 6 September £1,999

Concorde to New York on 23 June ● four nights at Skyline ● helicopter, yacht and coach tour £1,499

BA 747 to New York on any day ● four nights at Hilton (inc.Sat.) ● Concorde to Heathrow £2,499

Concorde supersonic to Paris on 12 May or 30 Sept. ● guided city tour ● Eurostar to Waterloo £499

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 27 May ● five night Oriana cruise to Monte-Carlo via Gibraltar ● tour Riviera ● Concorde supersonic from Nice to Heathrow £1,699

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June ● three night Oriana cruise to Norwegian Fjords ● jet return £999

Concorde to Bergen on 19 June ● two night Oriana cruise to Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August ● six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Praia da Rocha and Casablanca ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,799

QE2 & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 18 June ● five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Lisbon and Tangier ● city tour ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow from £1,599

Orient-Express to Southampton on 13 July ● eleven night Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Iceland ● Concorde return £2,999

Concorde, QE2 and Orient-Express holidays to New York (and Toronto) ● departures every month from £2,899

For our full colour brochure, please telephone:

0181-992 7000

or write to

SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL
43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS

ABTA V1463 2415

هكذا من الاعلان

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK
A cheerleader stimulated by cultural shift
PAGE 29

BUSINESS
A plea on behalf of small savers from Graham Searjeant
PAGE 31

SPORT
Tamburello pays final act of homage to Senna
PAGES 46-52

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF CHRISTCHURCH INSURANCE
PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

RK

ROBIN MAYES

Headlines for rappers and pop stars from Philip Pass, managing director of Kangol, left, and Andrew Hartley, with models Sarah Penman and Jo Whitaker

Kangol buyout for £30m

By Adam Jones

KANGOL Group, the hat maker whose products adorn the heads of pop stars, has been bought by its managers for £30 million.

The buyout was backed by £10.5 million from Kleinwort Benson. Kangol, founded in 1938, made a profit of £3.5 million before interest and tax last year. It was previously owned by the Marmon Corporation, a private industrial company belonging to the Pritzker family of Chicago.

The buyout will lead to expansion in Kangol's licensing activity. While it sold about $40 million of its headwear worldwide last year, sales of licensed products, including shoes, bags and casual wear, were about $100 million. Kangol gets a 5 to 7 per cent cut of the smaller wholesale value in these deals.

Japan is an important market. Andrew Hartley, a director of Kleinwort Benson Development Capital and a new Kangol board member, said the Japanese found the Kangaroo emblem "cute".

He said the surging popularity of Kangol hats among US rappers and UK celebrities such as Liam Gallagher, the Oasis singer, had helped boost sales last year.

Senior debt financing and working capital facilities, worth £18.9 million, were provided by NatWest Markets.

Airbus in merger talks with Lockheed

By Oliver August

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is holding merger talks with Lockheed Martin, the leading American aerospace group. The link-up is aimed at combatting Boeing's global dominance in aviation.

Talks between Lockheed and Airbus have involved Yves Michot, chief executive of Aérospatiale, and Norman Augustine, chairman of Lockheed, which is the world's biggest defence conglomerate, with sales of $27 billion last year. Airbus's turnover was $8.8 billion last year, down from $9.6 billion in 1995.

A full merger would be impossible before Airbus converts from a multinational consortium to become a single company in 1999. But the two companies are looking at ways of co-operating in advance of that. Airbus is currently owned by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France, Dasa of Germany and Casa of Spain, each of which will sign over part of their assets and production sites to Airbus. The company would eventually seek a stock market listing.

David Voskuhl, an Airbus spokesman, said: "Talks are being held to determine how far our co-operation with Lockheed will go. We can't confirm merger negotiations but one wouldn't be surprised by this. It makes sense given that there are not that many big players in the industry."

James Blackwell, president and chief operating officer of Lockheed's aeronautical division, said: "We are pursuing opportunities with Airbus. We will look at every opportunity afforded to Lockheed Martin and will always be interested in making good business deals." Last December, Boeing agreed a $13 billion merger with McDonnell Douglas of America. Together they currently hold 70 per cent of the world civil aviation market.

Insiders expect Airbus and Lockheed to build a strong project-by-project alliance before attempting a corporate link-up. The two groups are poised to announce groundbreaking agreements on some of the world's most important aerospace projects. Lockheed is set to become a risk-sharing partner in the $10 billion development of Airbus' 800-seater superjumbo.

BAe, which holds a 20 per cent stake in Airbus, has already developed strong links with Lockheed. It is a likely Lockheed partner on the $170 billion Joint Strike Fighter, America's most advanced military aircraft project. An announcement is expected shortly, after the granting of $1.1 billion of US Government development aid.

Lockheed and BAe also joined forces earlier this month to compete for the $5 billion contract for a battlefield reconnaissance vehicle, described as the modern equivalent of the Cavalry's Indian scout.

The transatlantic merger would coincide with the launch of the superjumbo. The 800-seater is expected to get the final go-ahead in 1999. Its main market is America and Lockheed's participation in the production process would increase the sales potential. Airbus recently said it was looking for a North American partner to take on up to 15 per cent of the superjumbo investment and development.

Tempus, page 30

Raider to pay Co-op damages

By Sarah Cunningham

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society emerged victorious from a High Court hearing yesterday at which the judge described Andrew Regan's aborted £1.2 billion takeover bid as "clearly dishonest" and based on "a serious, gross and wilful breach of confidence".

Mr Justice Lightman upheld an injunction banning Mr Regan and his associates from using material obtained from Allen Green, the CWS executive suspended last week. He also said Mr Green, Mr Regan, his business partner David Lyons, and their companies Galileo and Lanica Trust should pay punitive "indemnity" costs to CWS, expected to run into tens of thousands of pounds.

CWS is also seeking damages in the courts, which it said "will run into millions".

The judge agreed that Hambros Bank, which advised Mr Regan on the bid, be added to the civil action. Hambros declined to comment.

According to Brian Keelan, the SBC Warburg banker who led the CWS campaign, an attempt was made to halt the whole process early this week. "Our side went to them on Monday with a file of information and said you had better close it all down, and they didn't," he said. Although Mr Keelan would not specify, it is believed that, at the meeting, CWS solicitors showed Hambros some of the incriminating material they had gathered on Galileo and Mr Regan.

CWS is also planning civil action against Travers Smith Braithwaite, Galileo's lawyers. Travers, which is expected to resign as Galileo's lawyers, said: "We will resist most strongly any claim which may be made against us." It emerged in court that many

Continued on page 28, col 1

WEEKEND MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

33
Anne Ashworth on the unanswered question at M&G

31
Who owns the pension fund surpluses?

COLLECTING

33
The market in election memorabilia

BUILDING SOCIETIES

36-37
Prospects for Halifax. Young savers protest

INVESTMENT

TRUST WATCH

41
Are investment trusts going out of fashion?

MG to pay victims total of £220m

By Marianne Curphey

MORGAN GRENFELL is to pay 200,000 investors a total of £220 million compensation, equivalent to an average £1,100 each, for losses in the Peter Young affair.

The first slice of compensation to 80,000 direct investors in the three European trusts affected will be paid on Tuesday in either a cheque or units credited to their holdings. More than 70 per cent of investors have opted for units. A further 120,000 investors in nominee accounts will be compensated in coming months.

The news comes just a week after Morgan Grenfell was fined £2 million, plus £1 million costs, for breaches of City rules after Mr Young used investors' money to buy unlisted securities.

The compensation is based not on the trusts' previous track record as among the best in their sector, but on a comparison with the sector average. This will disappoint investors, who put £83 million into the trusts in 1995 to make the most of personal equity plan allowances. The best performing European trust over the past year has been Jupiter European, which has risen 40 per cent since last March. This compares with Morgan Grenfell's calculation of compensation for investors, based on an index rise of 15 per cent, across the whole sector. Its European Growth Trust rose 2.05 per cent.

A Pep investor who paid £6,000 into the European Growth Trust in February 1996 and sold at a loss of £1,007 five months later will be paid £1,106 compensation, based on the calculation that the index would have returned a £99 gain.

Peter Young, the senior manager of the three trusts, was suspended in September last year after being interviewed by officials from the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro).

Deutsche Bank of Germany, MG's parent, is estimated to have spent £430 million on supporting the trusts.

Weekend Money, page 40

Economic growth at two-year high

By Alasdair Murray

THE economy grew at its fastest rate for more than two years in the first quarter of 1997, led by the booming service sector.

Gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 3 per cent, compared with 2.7 per cent in the last quarter of 1996, according to data published yesterday by the Office for National Statistics.

The quarterly GDP growth rate also rose from 0.8 per cent to 1 per cent in the first quarter.

Service sector growth was especially strong, rising 1.2 per cent for the second quarter running and taking the annual rate to 3.9 per cent. But manufacturing sector growth remains sluggish, increasing an estimated 0.6 per cent in the first quarter — half the service sector rate.

Economists said the figures, which were slightly above expectations, are likely to increase Bank of England pressure on an incoming Chancellor to raise rates by as much as 0.5 per cent at the first post-election monetary meeting on May 7. The Bank of England has said that it believes the trend rate for GDP growth is 2.5 per cent and growth at a faster rate is likely to lead to higher inflation.

There is also growing concern that the expected flood of windfall payments from building society flotations will push service sector growth even higher.

Marian Bell, Treasury Economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, forecasts that windfall payments could push GDP growth as high as 5 per cent later this year and called for an immediate 0.5 per cent rate rise.

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC Markets, gave warning that the incoming Chancellor will face a policy dilemma with rises in interest rates likely to further unbalance the economy by tipping industry back towards recesssion. The CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce have argued that the next Chancellor should consider raising taxes rather than interest rates.

Watchdogs in power struggle

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE electricity watchdog in Northern Ireland may seek a judicial review after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission appeared to rule in favour of Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) in a dispute over pricing.

The showdown looked inevitable after the regulator said he might ignore proposals from the MMC to moderate pricing controls on the company.

The warning from Douglas McIldoon throws into question the whole regulatory process for pricing controls. Until now it was understood that the MMC would have the last word in a dispute between a company and its regulator.

Mr McIldoon said he intended to "largely accept the commission's proposals" but was not minded to accept transmission and distribution price controls without an adjustment. He plans a month-long consultation period before deciding the price curbs.

Dr Patrick Haren, NIE chief executive, said: "A judicial review must be the next stage if the MMC's proposals are not adopted. This throws the whole regulatory process into disrepute."

If Mr McIldoon carries out his threat of ignoring part of the MMC's recommendations, NIE is likely to seek a judicial review. He must then prove his decision to be in the public interest.

Mr McIldoon had wanted NIE, which has the highest charges for electricity in the UK, to cut transmission and distribution prices 31 per cent next year and thereafter by 2 per cent per year. NIE had wanted a 22 per cent one-off cut, while the MMC recommended 25 per cent. The highest cut would mean a £47 annual cut in bills. NIE has already made price cuts based on its own estimates.

Tempus, page 30

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4369.7	(−18.8)
Yield	3.70	
FTSE All share	2112.15	(−8.32)
Nikkei	18612.86	(−85.21)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6732.05	(−60.20)*
S&P Composite	756.37	(−4.81)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 9/16%*	(5 3/4%)
Long Bond	93 21/32*	(94 11/16)
Yield	7.14%*	(7.13%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 7/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	108 3/4	(109 1/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6245*	(1.6260)
London:		
$	1.6231	(1.6263)
DM	2.7974	(2.7924)
FFr	9.4464	(9.4222)
SFr	2.3820	(2.3761)
Yen	204.64	(205.10)
£ Index	99.7	(99.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7268*	(1.7150)
FFr	5.8225*	(5.7855)
SFr	1.4688*	(1.4608)
Yen	126.03*	(125.08)
$ Index	106.0	(105.7)

Tokyo close Yen 125.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$18.40	($18.45)

GOLD

London close	$342.55	($340.75)

* denotes midday trading price

MARTIN · CURRIE

A red rag to a bull market?

The Chinese flag will soon replace the Union Jack in Hong Kong. But what will happen to the economic complexion of the colony? How will companies fare after the changeover? Will investors be seeing red? Martin Currie think not.

After all, Hong Kong companies have been investing in China for many years. And Chinese companies – the 'red chips' – are already listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange.

But whatever happens – in South East Asia or elsewhere in the world – you can be sure that Martin Currie will be applying their long-established international investment skills to full advantage. (So no change there.)

MARTIN · CURRIE

For a guide to investing with us, call 0500 61 62 65

INSIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

Martin Currie Investment Management Ltd, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. Regulated by IMRO.

TT12

Stuart Siddall, left, financial director, with Paul Harrison, who is leaving Alpha in the summer to take up a senior job at Standard Chartered Bank

Capital and Regional to pay £147m for five shopping centres

By Fraser Nelson

CAPITAL AND Regional Properties is to become the second largest retail property group in the UK after agreeing to buy five shopping centres from Grosvenor Asset Management for £147 million.

The propeties, bought by Grosvenor for £15 million less than a year ago, will lift its gross property assets by 60 per cent, to £395 million. Its most expensive buy is the Howgate Centre in Falkirk, sold for £43.4 million. It has also bought the Alhambra Centre in Barnsley, Liberty II in Romford, Selbourne Walk in Walthamstow, and the Sauchiehall Centre, Glasgow.

Grosvenor has made a healthy profit on each of the sales. It paid £46.5 million for Howgate and the Alhambra Centre in Barnsley in February last year, and Capital and Regional has agreed to pay £60.5 million. It made £7 million for Selbourne Walk, bought last July, and made a £2.6 million profit on the Liberty II, which it bought only five months ago for £18.8 million.

Martin Barber, chairman of Capital and Regional, said that he was not aware of how much Grosvenor had originally paid for the properties, but they had nonetheless been secured for £2 million less than the valuation estimates.

He went on: "We don't really mind what other people make out of it, what we want to know is whether its the right price for us. We don't know what costs they had to incur to attract tenants. This gives us a much stronger hand with retailers; if they want to open a store, we can ask them to do up one of their stores in another centre. It will be a bit of scratch my back."

The four English shopping centres come as a leasehold purchase, with the local councils owning the freehold. Mr Barber said this left the company with the option of buying the freehold and the chance to release more value.

He added: "Pretty much all the local authorities are strapped for cash and I can't see the floodgates opening after the general election. There is a marriage value gained in buying the freehold, and that is something we will consider."

The five centres have a combined retail space of 892,000 sq ft with £9.6 million of rental income and an average yield of 8.22 per cent.

Capital and Regional is funding the deal through £94 million of borrowings, with a placing and open offer to raise £60 million by placing new shares at 215p a share.

The company's shares closed 2p easier, at 233½p.

Alpha chief to quit as profits edge up to £22m

By Martin Barrow

PAUL HARRISON, the man who brought Alpha Airports Group to the stock market three years ago, is leaving to take up a senior job at Standard Chartered Bank, the company said yesterday. Alpha said it had accepted his resignation "with regret".

His departure comes at an inauspicious time for the company, which awaits the next move of Mohamed Al Fayed. Mr Al Fayed acquired a 25 per cent interest in Alpha from Granada for £52 million last November, when he agreed not to bid for the group for at least six months. The self-imposed deadline expires on May 5. Yesterday Alpha shares fell 2½p to 108½p. Mr Al Fayed paid 125p a share.

Mr Harrison will leave Alpha in the summer, by which time the company hopes to have found a new chief executive. Until then Rodney Galpin, non-executive chairman, expects to assume a more executive role. Mr Galpin is a former chief executive of Standard Chartered.

Alpha announced a 6.8 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 to £22.0 million from £20.6 million. But the headline figure was cut back to £7.8 million by a £14.2 million exceptional loss on the sale of US Kitchens, its American catering firm.

The total dividend rises to 5.25p (5p) a share, with a 3.5p final, payable from adjusted earnings of 10.16p (10.75p).

Mr Galpin said that, over the medium term, Alpha would see continuing cuts in management fees from BAA, while it would also be hit by abolition of duty-free allowances.

☐ BAA, the airports operator, is taking a charge of £53 million against its profits for its latest financial year because of a change of accounting policy over the Heathrow Terminal 5 project.

Raider to pay Co-op damages

Continued from page 27

other banks and businesses had been approached by Hambros and Galileo in recent weeks. The banks are: Goldman Sachs; Société Générale; Union Bank of Switzerland; J P Morgan; Lloyds; Bankers Trust; HSBC Investment Bank; and Nomura. Nomura agreed to lend £1.2 billion, but withdrew the offer on Thursday.

The property companies Hillier Parker, Healey & Baker and Avonwick were also named in court, as were Jupiter International Group, Price Waterhouse, J Sainsbury, and Leucadia National Corporation, a US company.

Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, said the City's standards "had been put into question" by the affair. He reiterated that the CWS is not for sale.

Tempus, page 30

City Centre buys Est Est Est chain

By Alasdair Murray

CITY CENTRE Restaurants, best-known for the Garfunkels and Caffe Uno chains, moved to expand its brand portfolio yesterday with the £13 million purchase of 13 restaurants in the North West.

City Centre is buying a 90 per cent stake in the nine-strong Est Est Est chain of upmarket Italian restaurants — popular with the Liverpool football team — from the founders, Derek and Edwina Lilley. It will also take control of three What's Cooking sites and a wine bar.

Mr and Mrs Lilley founded their first restaurant in 1981 but opened the first Est Est Est in Knutsford eight years ago. They have rapidly rolled the brand out across the North West since winning capital backing from Murray Johnstone Ventures, which took an 80 per cent stake.

The Lilleys will continue as managing directors. They have sold half of their 20 per cent stake for £1.75 million, with City Centre holding an option to buy the remaining 10 per cent for between £1.75 million and £5 million, subject to performance.

James Naylor, chief executive of City Centre, said the company is aiming to open two new Est Est Est sites this year and add up to six new restaurants the following year. Shares in City Centre, which now owns around 250 sites, closed down 5p, at 134p.

The restaurant sector has been highly active in recent months, with prices soaring for established chains. Whitbread followed its £133 million purchase of Pelican — which developed the Café Rouge brand — with the £46 million acquisition of the Brightreasons group, best-known for the Bella Pasta brand. Other companies, such as Chez Gérard and Queensborough Holdings, are on the lookout for new brands.

Abell: seeks board changes

Jourdan chief attacks rebel

KEITH WHITTEN, chairman of Thomas Jourdan, yesterday accused David Abell, the rebel shareholder, of attempting to secure control without making a takeover bid (Chris Ayres writes).

Mr Abell has requisitioned an extraordinary meeting on May 20, seeking the removal of Mr Whitten and all non-executive directors. Mr Abell and his family own 28 per cent of the shares and have the support of a further 11 per cent of investors.

Paphitis steps in to rescue Millwall

By Jason Nissé

THEO PAPHITIS, the entrepreneur who rescued the Ryman and Contessa retail chains, is to take charge of Millwall, the struggling second division football club, backing a £10 million rescue share issue at 1p a share.

The deal will pay off Millwall's £7.25 million of debts, allowing it to come out of the company voluntary arrangement it went into after collapsing earlier this year. This will leave Millwall with around £2.75 million of cash, which the club will use to improve its team and develop the use of the stadium in south-east London.

The deal needs to be approved by shareholders, who will lose money, as Millwall shares were suspended at 4p, and by the courts. It is not expected that Millwall shares will be relisted until the end of July.

Mr Paphitis will become chairman of the group and Peter Mead, the advertising executive who attempted to rescue the club, will stay on as deputy chairman.

Millwall will have a thorough review of its playing staff in the close season, with the hope of strengthening the squad and moving up a division within a couple of years.

Mr Paphitis also wants to use the stadium for pop concerts and has invited John Burrows, the former director of Capital Radio Music Festivals, on to the board as a non-executive director.

The club also released figures for the six months to November 30, showing that the club's losses had been reduced from £376,000 to just £51,000, though the improvement was largely due to selling Alex Rea to Sunderland.

The loss per share was 0.01p and there is no dividend.

Tempus, page 30

Sears in last-minute battle to sell Freemans

By Patience Wheatcroft, City Editor

Sears plc

THIS weekend Sears is in desperate last-minute talks aimed at clinching the sale of its Freemans mail order subsidiary to Littlewoods. Haggling over price is now putting the deal in jeopardy. If it collapses, shareholders may finally decide that Liam Strong, Sears' chief executive, should pay the price for failing to deliver what he promised.

On Tuesday, Sears is due to report its results for the year to January. The figures will be dire, with pre-tax profits predicted to have tumbled from £100 million to little more than £70 million. Losses have been escalating in British Shoe Corporation and Freemans is losing ground to competitors.

Shareholders are primed for this but have also been led to expect that the dreadful trading picture will be accompanied by a radical reshaping of the group. Selling Freemans was to be the first stage, and a sale at £395 million was to bring the bonus of a cash handout to shareholders.

A deal at that price foundered when Mr Strong refused to give Littlewoods exclusivity. Now that they are back in negotiations, after Mr Strong's ill-advised dalliance with David Alliance of N Brown, Littlewoods understandably is pressing its upper hand and is not prepared to pay so generously. Mr Strong has more to lose by seeing the deal collapse than has James Ross, the Littlewoods chief executive.

After taking office five years ago, his first report to shareholders proclaimed that: "British Shoe Corporation is the most immediate and pressing challenge facing the group." On Tuesday, he will have to admit that it is the challenge he has failed to meet. Despite cutting the number of shops by half, BSC's performance has continued to deteriorate. Losses are likely to have hit £5 million in the last year, against an operating profit of £7.5 million the previous year.

Mr Strong, a former British Airways marketing director, has failed to find the formats that attract customers. Having sold famous names such as Saxone, he has boiled BSC down to just four frontages: Shoe City, Shoe Express, Cable & Co and Dolcis. The public's reaction has been a resounding raspberry.

Mr Strong is now being forced to look at pulling out completely, but he could face a potentially huge bill — the analyst Nick Bubb, of Mees Pierson, has suggested it may exceed £300 million.

Mr Strong and Sir Bob Reid, his chairman, know that they have to have something positive to say to shareholders on Tuesday, but insiders say that they are still struggling to find it. Until recently, it was examining the possibility of closing or selling most of the shoe business, only retaining Dolcis, which would be folded into its fashion business. Recently, however, it seems to have put that idea on hold.

A rumoured flotation of Selfridges would find investors prepared to pile into a successful department store, but hiving off the most exciting part of Sears would only serve to underline the miseries in the rest of the portfolio.

Institutional investors in the group have left Mr Strong and Sir Bob in no doubt that they want to see change in the group, and soon. If there is nothing to cheer them on Tuesday, then they will have good cause to insist that the change must be at the top of the group.

Liam Strong, left, with Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears

"Where can I sell my beautiful home?"
See p.9 Weekend

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Regal rights issue to fund hotels deal

REGAL HOTEL GROUP is to make its second major rights issue in a year to help to fund the £64.5 million purchase of 13 three-star hotels from Whitbread. It is aiming to raise £37 million through the issue of ordinary and preference shares and a further £35 million in debenture stock.

Regal is offering one new ordinary share for every five existing shares at 54p. Trading in the new shares is expected to start at the end of May. Regal shares closed unchanged yesterday at 56½p. Last May the company raised £67 million with a rights issue at 42p to help to fund the £122 million purchase of 60 White Hart Hotels from Granada. Regal has quadrupled in size in the last year and will now operate 95 three-star hotels, primarily in provincial UK sites. Charles Vere Nicoll, executive chairman, said the properties were complementary with the company's existing portfolio and the purchase should be earnings enhancing. Whitbread said it had made the disposal as part of its strategy to focus on its Marriott and Travel Inn brands.

EDS price tumbles

SHARES of Electronic Data Systems fell more than 20 per cent yesterday in response to the company's surprise disclosure of an 11 per cent decline in profits in the first quarter. The American company, which has numerous contracts with government agencies in Britain, said net income fell to $194.1 million from $218 million in the three months to the end of March. Hugh Shytle, a Cowen & Co analyst, said: "This was a shortfall of historic proportions."

Nissan Life shuts down

JAPAN'S troubled financial sector suffered a new blow yesterday when the finance ministry ordered the closure of Nissan Mutual Life Insurance. It has a workforce of 5,000 and total assets of 2,125.7 billion yen (£10.6 billion). At the end of March liabilities exceeded assets by about 200 billion yen. Nissan Life will continue to pay out death benefits, medical costs and matured endowments, and will accept premium payments while a protection plan is worked out.

Rosebys shares fall

SHARES in Rosebys, the household textiles and soft furnishings group, fell 14p to 298½p after yesterday's annual meeting, where it said like-for-like sales had been affected by uncertainty caused by the general election. The company also announced the resignation of Pat Marsh, who joined the company when it floated in 1992 as a non-executive director. She will be replaced by Donald Macpherson, a director of NatWest Markets. Mrs Marsh will receive no compensation.

Burmah chief's pay falls

JONATHAN FRY, chief executive of Burmah Castrol, made £361,000 from share options, according to the latest accounts from the oil and lubricants group. Mr Fry, who is also chairman designate of Christian Salvesen, exercised 59,169 options during the year at 486p. The market price was £10.96. His basic salary was £421,000 (£387,000), while benefits and a £55,000 bonus took his total pay to £489,000 for 1996. His total pay in 1995 was £509,000, including a £109,000 bonus.

Publisher sells stake

NIGEL BANCE, publisher of *Petroleum Economist*, has sold a 15 per cent interest in the publication to Euromoney Publications for £1 million. Mr Bance, who paid £300,000 for a 49 per cent stake in the magazine seven years ago, is understood to be considering an offer for the College of Petroleum Studies in Oxford. Euromoney now controls 95 per cent of *Petroleum Economist* and has reserved the right to buy Mr Bance's remaining 5 per cent for up to £2 million.

Warning by Yorkshire

SHARES in Yorkshire Group, the struggling chemicals company, fell from 242½p to 212½p after it gave warning at its annual meeting that profits would be hit by price pressures and the strength of sterling. It said incoming orders were holding up in most areas but that margins were being hit in key markets such as textiles. Yorkshire also said that in the long term it remained confident its core activities, particularly in South-East Asia, would enhance shareholder value.

Peugeot sales grow

PEUGEOT'S UK operations announced pre-tax profits of £30.5 million for 1996, its best since 1991, compared with £4.9 million in 1995. Richard Parham, managing director, said the company expected sales growth to continue in 1997. Peugeot sold 153,242 cars in the UK in 1996, up from 143,321 in 1995. Its market share increased from 7.37 per cent to 7.57 per cent. Production at the Ryton plant in Coventry rose more than 8 per cent to 85,751, the highest since 1992.

Holt profits standstill

JOSEPH HOLT, the Manchester brewer that also owns 120 public houses, reported profits little changed at £8.39 million in 1996, up from from £8.38 million, on a turnover that rose to £29.79 million from £29.1 million. Earnings per share were up from 186.15p to 186.74p. A final dividend of 45p (43p) will be paid on June 13, bringing the total to 59p (56p). The company says that its results have been affected by the purchase of 12 pubs this year.

Prior's Cardiff purchase

PRIOR, the UK property company, yesterday bought the freehold of Brunel House, Cardiff, for £5.25 million, financed through borrowings of £3.75 million and cash reserves, from British Rail Property Board. It is a 231,000 sq ft air-conditioned office building that is 70 per cent let, with a rental income of £1.15 million. Tenants include British Telecom, Racal BR Telecoms, Department of the Environment and the Welsh Tourist Board. Most of the leases expire in 1999.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	20.53	19.03
Belgium Fr	60.46	55.96
Canada $	2.378	2.208
Cyprus Cyp£	0.871	0.806
Denmark Kr	11.15	10.35
Finland Mkk	8.89	8.21
France Fr	9.82	9.12
Germany Dm	2.94	2.72
Greece Dr	461	431
Hong Kong $	13.31	12.21
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Israel Shk	5.80	5.15
Italy Lira	2820	2720
Japan Yen	218.30	202.30
Malta	0.857	0.802
Netherlds Gld	3.313	3.043
New Zealand $	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	11.89	11.19
Portugal Esc	291.00	271.00
S Africa Rd	7.90	7.00
Spain Pta	245.50	228.50
Sweden Kr	13.23	12.23
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.31
Turkey Lira	224555	210555
USA $	1.721	1.591

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"The City thought it might be the deal of 1997 but last week Andrew Regan's £1 2 billion bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society collapsed in ignominy amid multi-million pound court actions"

Read the full story in Business — tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JENNIFER LAING

Cheerleader stimulated by cultural shift

Victoria McKee meets the woman who was brought in to run Saatchi & Saatchi, the agency now cutting the cord with Cordiant

CHRIS HARRIS

Jennifer Laing has slipped effortlessly into a New York lifestyle since her arrival in January but says she is still getting her mind into American culture

SAATCHI & Saatchi is about to regain its identity as an independent advertising agency. Jennifer Laing, chief executive of the firm's North American operations, is optimistic that last week's decision by Cordiant to split off its component agencies will provide a shot of adrenalin. "I'd like to see that passion and competitiveness come bubbling up a bit more," said the woman who dubs herself "a good cheerleader".

She was on a trip to France last weekend when she heard confirmation of the latest restructuring of the business she first joined straight from college in 1969. She oozes enthusiasm for the change. "Saatchi & Saatchi is one of the most famous brand names in the world and had become blurred by the Cordiant branding," she says. "Now we're freer to develop it."

Laing's deep-rooted affection for the firm was what made her the choice to move in as chairman in April 1995 after the departure of the brothers who had bestowed their name on it. In January this year, she moved to New York, when Alan Bishop, who had been running the US show, took over in London. The culture shock was still showing when I met her in her elegant eyrie of an office in New York.

> I'd like to see passion and competitiveness come bubbling up a bit more

Her move, initiated by Ed Wax, the 60-year-old chief executive officer of Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide, was made in such a rush that Laing and her long-time personal partner and professional deputy Tony Dalton found themselves in New York without even the security of a rented apartment. So they had to submit to the rigours of interrogation by a New York co-operative board. "They made us provide three years' tax returns and commit to having no dogs and no children and not smoking," she says incredulously. "We also had to be interviewed. It was an extraordinary process, but quite good fun." That and numerous personal references eventually secured their one-year lease in one of Donald Trump's tower blocks, now furnished in a style Laing dubs "basically bland" by a furniture rental firm.

From the far-from-bland Victoriana of her London home she brought just a silver teapot and a few other knick-knacks to personalise the place.

She has left behind the red Ferrari which helped to woo her back to Saatchi & Saatchi after having left the firm, and a top job as joint chairman, in the mid-1980s. She had gone on to run her own agency, and luring her back to Charlotte Street took more than the flashy car — her firm had to be bought too. Ironically, Charles Saatchi had predicted her business would eventually be bought out by Saatchis, though even he probably could not have envisaged the circumstances.

We meet in Laing's office in New York's SoHo (for South Houston Street) area, "where all the sexy advertising companies are now based". Although a considerable way from midtown Manhattan, the office boasts superb views of the skyline and, from Laing's curving corner office, the Statue of Liberty. It has a gym, a domed atrium and a running track on the roof.

SoHo has its fashionable residents, John F. Kennedy among them, but Laing and Dalton chose to live in midtown near Bloomingdale's, travelling by chauffeured Cadillac. "You don't need a car in New York," Laing said. "You just grab a cab, or pick up the phone to order food. You don't need to cook because everything can be delivered, you send out all your cleaning and mending and don't even have to carry your groceries home. I've slipped into this lifestyle quite effortlessly."

What about the reward for the job, with its responsibilities stretching from Canada to an Francisco? It is more, she concedes, than the £150,000 or so she was receiving in London, taking in six agencies from Canada to San Francisco.

Laing has just landed the Delta Airlines account, which should help with the travelling. Now she just needs a good hotel chain. She points to the large map of the US behind her desk, flanked by six large clocks telling the time from Hong Kong to Sydney. "See all those red dots? Those are all the places I've been to so far. Cincinnati for Procter & Gamble, Minneapolis for General Mills and Atlanta for Delta are the latest three. In London clients used to come to us, but here we go to clients because of the geography and scale. So I've been out of the office at least one day a week, and often two, and Tony and I are often just passing each other at airports."

She may have to go to clients, but has a knack for bringing clients to the agency and keeping them there. It's a source of pride for her that "we didn't lose a single client at Saatchi's London after we went there, after the original exodus". That included big accounts such as British Airways and the Conservative Party, which stayed with Maurice and Charles and their new M & C Saatchi agency.

"Not only that, we galvanised the culture towards the clients and looked after them better than ever before and produced the second most profitable year ever in Charlotte Street. We also won more awards than the agency had ever won in its life. We are 'agency of the year' this year," she says proudly, "and the agency had never won that accolade, even when all those so-called charismatic and famous ad people were there!"

By that, of course, she means Charles and Maurice, whose departure may have shocked Charlotte Street, but caused few ripples in the US. "In London we had a crisis — but the crisis brought to the fore the Saatchi culture, that passion for advertising and that competitiveness that has always been so good for us. But here there was no crisis. Charles and Maurice had nothing to do with the day-to-day business in America. They were with the holding company now named Cordiant. American business people had not put them on a pedestal. They just saw a debt-ridden holding company and held the people in charge responsible." It was a US fund manager, David Herro, who led the demands for change.

In some ways, she regrets not having an excuse to shake up the New York office. "Although I don't want a crisis here, I need to find positive ways to do that." She has already commissioned a major piece of staff research "to understand what the culture is here and what aspects of Saatchiness I can develop here".

Certainly the staff seem keen, hitting the jogging track at dawn and the clients' products (like General Mills cereals) in the subsidised cafeteria afterwards. In the special "Kid Connection" they're communicating intensely on the Internet with Saatchi's 300 "virtual" child consultants — when they're not crawling around the floor testing toys. "Although we're a very successful agency, the third-biggest in New York — behind Grey and Y&R [Young and Rubican] — and we bill £1.5 billion, we're not automatically known here. Not many people could tell you the brands we advertise because the agency's quite modest and doesn't bang its own drum the way, of course, Saatchi's in London does." Not waiting for the results of the survey to start her cheerleading, Laing gathered together 300 of her 500 staff (100 more than at Charlotte Street), "including people from the accounts department and the doormen", and asked how many were familiar with the advertising that the company did. "A lot weren't," she says incredulously. "And my feeling is that you might as well work in a bank" — what scorn she puts into that word — "if you don't know what we're doing. If you work in an advertising agency, you should feel some involvement with the product."

So she showed them a video of Saatchi ads "and I said to them 'go home and talk to somebody about our work today' and on Monday I was in the — what do they call it, the rest room? — when a lovely young lady came up to me and said 'I was talking to some friends at the weekend about the Tylenol spot and they said they'd seen it during the Superbowl coverage but didn't know we'd done it'." Triumphant, Laing replays the video, with ads for everything from the headache reliever Tylenol (a nostalgic father-and-son football sequence) to Bell Atlantic classifieds (a little black boy mischievously trying to sell all his older brother's effects) and the pro bono ad for an action group against guns, featuring horrific scenes of children killed by them against a background of Peter, Paul and Mary singing *Where have all the children gone?* A brain surgeon warns that "drugs really mess up your mind" and popular *Sister, Sister* sitcom stars munch Frosted Cheerios.

Laing admits she's still getting her mind into American culture and can't always trust her gut reactions as she could in Britain, but maintains that a really good ad can cross cultural barriers, which is partly why she's now in New York. "The move is towards globalisation," she says. "It's the way the Saatchi world is going and it's the way the world is going. That's what this job swap is about."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Insurance company revels in haunting beauty of its offices

Curious visitors flock to Wren church rich with history, says **Joanna Pitman**

Architectural historians, students, members of ecclesiastical bodies, Americans searching for their ancestral roots and groups of tourists turn up regularly at the City offices of Christchurch Insurance wondering if they can have a look around. Such a flow of strictly non-business visitors is inevitable if your offices are located inside a beautiful 1687 Wren church and its neighbouring vestry, just a few metres away from St Paul's Cathedral.

In 1992, the year Christchurch Insurance was formed, the company took up a 125-year lease on the tower of Christ Church Newgate Street from the City Corporation. At the same time it also took a lease on the adjoining vestry from United Friendly, which had bought it in 1981 from an Irish property developer.

A firm of ecclesiastical architects, Seely & Paget, which specialised in the restoration of City churches bombed during the war, had restored the exterior and modernised the interior of the vestry and done further restoration work on the tower.

When Christchurch moved in, a spiral staircase was installed in the tower, cabling and computer equipment introduced and now Wren's tower echoes to the sounds of risk-management negotiations — sadly the original bells have disappeared.

In one of the offices, late 17th century and early 18th century memorial tablets look down from the walls. Another, in the upper part of the bell tower, looks out on four sides to a panoramic City view, one of them being St Paul's at close quarters.

The history of Christ Church, Newgate, begins with the Franciscans, known as Grey Friars, who came to London from Italy in 1224 and occupied land in Newgate. Little is known of the first church erected there, but in 1306 the Grey Friars began work on a magnificent new edifice, probably the largest friars' church in England.

Over the years, the site has been subject to more than its fair share of disasters. During the great European earthquake, which shook London on April 6, 1580, "the roof of Christ Church was so shaken that a stone dropped out of it, killing one person and mortally wounding another, it being sermon time".

In 1666 the church was almost entirely destroyed in the Great Fire. Its remains were left untouched until 1687, when rebuilding was begun to designs by Wren. The steeple was completed in 1704.

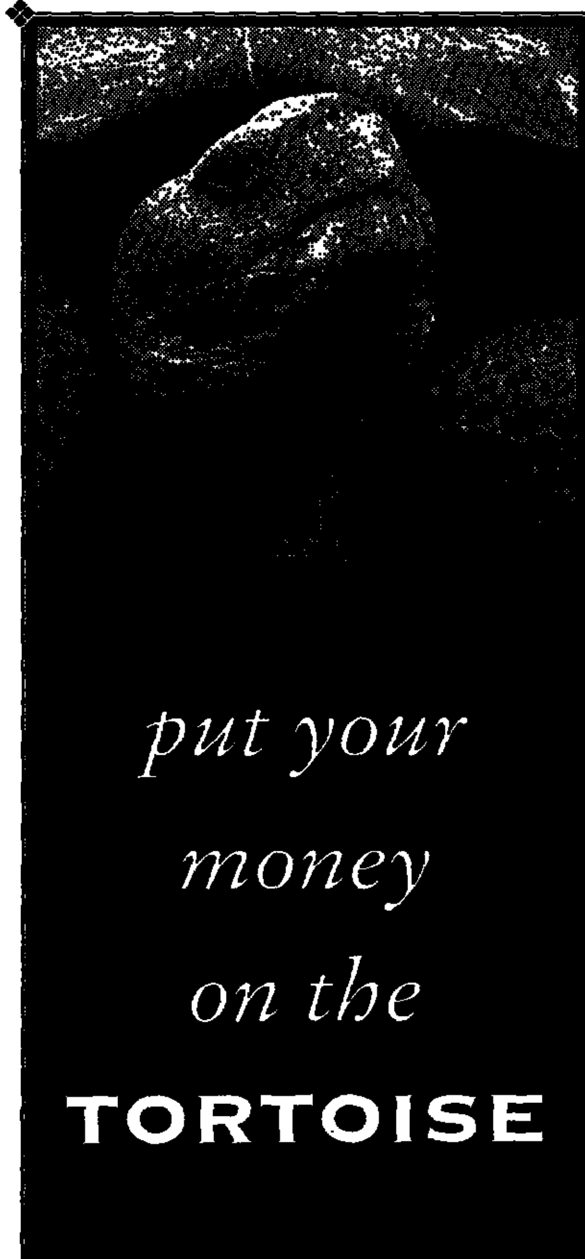
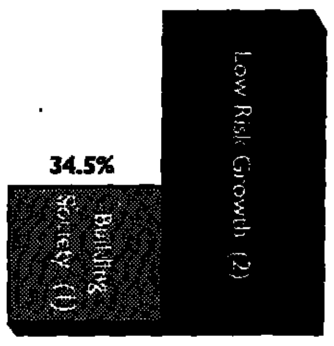
The church suffered major damage during the Second World War, when a firebomb struck in 1940. All that remained, apart from two outside walls, was the damaged tower. In 1960 the spire and the upper part of the tower above the circular windows were rebuilt.

The churchyard has survived and is now a quiet oasis in the middle of the bustling city. Isabella, Edward II's queen, is buried here and she is thought to haunt the churchyard. Lady Alice Hungerford is also said to haunt the churchyard. She was acclaimed as the great beauty of her generation but poisoned her second husband and was hanged in 1523.

However, no ghosts have yet seriously disrupted business for Christchurch Insurance, although Derek Bell, chief executive, does enjoy telling visitors about the campaign waged against the T and the M sections in the office's filing system. Administrative staff regularly find the two files muddled, sometimes with sections missing. Bell wonders whether the culprit could be one Thomas Misenor, who died in 1779 and whose tablet sits on the wall above the filing cabinets.

Mysterious indeed.

Such a beautiful church-based office inevitably attracts numerous non-business visitors

put your money on the TORTOISE

GVG ASSET MANAGEMENT

GVG Asset Management is a division of stockbrokers Gerrard Vivian Gray Limited, which is a subsidiary of Gerrard Group plc.
Member of the London Stock Exchange and regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority
Registered Office: 88 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS.
Registered in England No. 2136365

Conventional wisdom says that higher returns mean higher risk. In this case conventional wisdom is wrong. Our Low Risk Growth strategy can deliver:

- **Outstanding performance** providing a better return than cash and even outstripping the capital return from the FTSE All Share(3), *but with*
- **Lower risk.** The strategy produces reassuringly consistent performance and carries lower risk than conventional equity based portfolios. *What's more, there is*
- **Little or no tax** on returns to most clients, so the strategy is well suited for tax planning alongside PEPs. Especially since, unlike a PEP, *there is*
- **No maximum limit** although there is a minimum requirement for this strategy of £20,000.

(1) Halifax Solid Gold 90 Day £25,000+ with net income reinvested. (2) Low Risk Growth Model Portfolio performance, allowing for all dealing costs and annual charges but excluding initial charge. (3) FTSE All Share Index performance 31/3/91 – 31/3/97 is up 75.9% (capital performance only).

For more details please ring Jeremy Nunn on 0171 413 0881 or contact your independent financial adviser.

GVG ASSET MANAGEMENT
To: Jeremy Nunn, GVG Asset Management, Burne House,
88 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS.
Telephone: 0171 413 0881 Facsimile: 0171 404 0776
E-mail: gvgam@gvg.co.uk
Internet: http://www.gvg.co.uk/am/
Please send me full details of the Low Risk Growth strategy.

Name
Address

Postcode
Daytime Tel:

*Past performance is no guide to the future. The value of an investment can go down as well as up and the investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Changes in exchange rates may affect the value of overseas investments. The source of all figures is Hindsight except GVG performance: Source GVG. All performance figures are from the launch of the Low Risk Growth Portfolio on 31/3/91 to 31/3/97.
TI 202

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Utilities shrug off fears over windfall taxation

JUST six days to polling day and shares of the big utilities *were shrugging off any remaining fears about windfall* tax and increased regulatory pressures to score some useful gains in a falling market.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, has taken the initiative by publishing a major review of the gas, electric and water utilities. Far from expressing fears about the consequences of a Labour Government, Merrill's Andrew Wright is confident about the future. Faced with takeover activities and balance sheet restructuring, investors have been inclined to overlook their yield attractions.

"The market is now over discounting the political and regulatory risks for the utilities. *There is still plenty to go* for", he insists.

He uses **United Utilities**, born out of the merger of North West Water and Norweb, as a case *in point*. The shares rose 13p to 671½p yesterday where they yield 7 per cent and can muster dividend growth of 11 per cent per annum.

He recommends a total of nine companies, four water and five electricity. They include **Hyder**, up 3½p at 822½p, **South West Water**, 2½p easier at 670p, **Wessex**, 9p up at 384p. The electricity companies are **Southern Electric**, down 6p at 414p, **Scottish Power**, 1½p lighter at 374p, **National Power**, 2p better at 525½p, **National Grid**, 6p higher at 221½p, and **Scottish Hydro**, 1p off at 372½p. **Northern Ireland Electricity** rose 9½p to 389½p undaunted by the regulator's demand to cut prices by 25 per cent.

The stronger than expected rise in the first-quarter gross domestic product brought with it fresh fears of a rise in interest rates straight after the election. This combined with an opening fall for the Dow Jones industrial average saw share prices lose ground. But the FT-SE 100 index managed to close off the bottom ending 18.8 down at 4,369.7 reducing *the rise on the week to* 59.2. A total of 900 million shares changed hands.

The **Alliance & Leicester** provided a tired-looking market with a new lease of life when it began trading on Monday. Institutions pitched *their bids in the initial auction* way above even the most optimistic forecast. The shares started trading at 522p closing unchanged at the end of the week on 554p, *a premium* 32p. It has also provided the new bank's shareholders with a windfall worth £1,385.

Nick Lord, banking analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, says the success of A&L's float owes much to the fact *that it is being spoken* of as a takeover target two to three years down the line.

He maintains that the rest of the banking sector will remain underpinned as fund managers continues to increase their weightings in the sector during the months ahead. Those likely to feature include **Barclays**, down 19p at £10.88½ after a strong run, **NatWest Bank**, 11p off at 710p **HSBC**, 18½p down at £15.63½, and **Lloyds TSB**, 5p dearer at 557p.

But Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has turned cautious of **Abbey National**, 9p cheaper at 816½p, after Thursday's *uninspiring trading* update. Word is Laing may be on the verge of downgrading its profits numbers.

ICI, 2p firmer at 702½p, has become *the latest company to* complain about the damage a strong pound does to profitability. It joins a growing list of companies which are finding it increasingly difficult to sell their goods abroad. They include **SmithKline Beecham**, up 5p at 944½p, **Reed International**, down 16½p at £11.22½ and **Dorling Kindersley**, 1½p off at 297½p.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse, the merchant bank, says it points to earnings problems for many *exporters later in the year*. "It will be the perfect excuse for a lot of companies. Any problem with earnings will be blamed on the pound."

This week's profits warning from Vickers also caused a stir *in the market. Once again the* impact on profits of a strong pound was blamed, along with heavy discounting of its Rolls-Royce and Bentley models. **Vickers** rallied 4½p to 206p yesterday, but remained 20p down on the week. Danny Bevan at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, feels the shares have now come back *too far and has been urging* clients to top up their holdings. He takes a similar view of **TI Group**, 3p better at 526½p.

But there no such support for **Siebe**, down 22½p at 912p, for a two-day deficit of 42½p. Word is the company is poised to make a significant acquisition. Siebe says it never com*ments on market* speculation.

Its also been a difficult week for the retailers, particulary *the big-ticket variety. Despite* an impressive set of profit numbers earlier in the week from **DFS Furniture**, unchanged at 552½p, several brokers have reported a downturn in big-ticket sales during the past month as uncertainty over the election and a slowdown in the housing market take their toll.

Carpetright has been the hardest hit with the price sliding a further 3p to 469½p yesterday. The various building society windfalls may provide some benefit, but according to ABN Amro Hoare Govett, it could be the final quarter of the year before there is any sustained pick-up in sales.

Laura Ashley *continued to* lick its wounds after Thursday's profits warning. But some brokers say the shares are worth a punt at these levels and the price firmed 2p to 106p as 2.5 million shares were traded.

☐ *GILT-EDGED: There was* a further steepening of the yield curve as government securities again underperformed overseas bond markets during a lacklustre session.

In the futures pit, the June *series of the* long gilt finished £$\frac{9}{32}$ lower at £108¾.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent fell £⅜ to £101$\frac{25}{32}$, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £⅛ off at £102¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares were lower as the Dow Jones industrials continued to erase recent gains. The industrial average was off 60.20 to 6,732.05 at midday.

Lord Tugendhat, Abbey chairman, saw the shares fall 9p

J Sainsbury slipped 2p to 323p after a visit to the supermarkets group this week by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which came away unimpressed. CLL told clients that the group still has a lot of ground to make up and is cautious about prospects for its Giant Food stake in the US. CLL rates the shares no better than a "hold".

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Barclays Bank	£10.88½	+78½p	Institutional buying
Vickers	207p	-21½p	Profits warning
Laura Ashley	106p	-32p½	Profits warning
Yorkshire Group	212p	-30p	Hit by strong pound
Shield Diagnostics	527½p	-35p	Directors share sales
Molins	652½p	-92½p	Profits warning
Carpetright	469½p	-52½p	Brokers cautious
Eurodis Electron	132½p	-39p	Profits warning
Omnicare	159p	+32p	Bid approach

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6732.05 (-60.20)
S&P Composite	766.37 (-4.81)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18612.86 (-85.21)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	12645.76 (-81.07)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	752.62 (-10.54)
Sydney:	
AO	Closed
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3374.10 (-23.26)
Singapore:	
Straits	2019.60 (-0.57)
Brussels:	
General	12269.33 (-103.99)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2536.26 (-3.57)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	991.00 (-10.80)
London:	
FT 30	2862.0 (-7.1)
FTSE 100	4369.7 (-18.8)
FTSE 250	4500.5 (-16.9)
FTSE 350	2143.0 (-9.0)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2196.79 (-10.15)
FTSE All-Share	2112.15 (-8.32)
FTSE Non Financials	2159.56 (-7.41)
FTSE Fixed Interest	116.36 (-0.46)
FTSE Govt Secs	93.46 (+0.33)
Bargains	46633
SEAQ Volume	901.5m
US$	1.6230 (-0.0035)
German Mark	2.7977 (+0.0050)
Exchange Index	99.7 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4238
£:SDR	1.1844
RPI	155.4 Mar (2.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	154.9 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	554	- ½
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Bickerton	38½	...
Charlton Athletic	57½	...
Close Bros Prot VCT	95	...
Comino	139½	...
Donatantonio	80½	+ 6
Heal's	212½	...
Lady In Leisure	127½	+ 2
Methven's	48	...
NMT (50)	50½	...
Newcastle Utd	125	+ ½
Northstar Secs	28½	...
Oxford Tech Venture	95	...
Qualceram (143)	155½	...
Soccer Investments	102½	...
Torch Hldgs	107½	...
United Overseas Grp	65	+ 3½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ask Central n/p (160)	35	...
Break for the Brdr n/p	1½	...
Edge Props n/p (135)	18½	...
Luminar n/p (320)	57½	+ 5
Pembertons n/p (18)	3	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Grosvenor Inns	206p (+11p)
Waste Mgt Intl	250p (+11½p)
Old Eng Pub	254p (+11½p)
Tilbury Dougls	715p (+30p)
PizzaExpress	689p (+21½p)
Danka Bs Sys	462½p (+10p)
Compass Gp	681p (+10½p)
Telspec	262½p (-12½p)
Blacks Leis	475½p (-8p)

FALLS:

Silentnight	315p (-22½p)
Rosebys	298½p (-14p)
Cowie	391½p (-12p)
BAA	518p (-14p)
Siebe	912p (-22½p)
McKechnie	496½p (-10p)
Scot & New	672p (-11½p)
Logica	940p (-15p)
Nat West	710p (-11p)
Croda	293½p (-11½p)
Trinity Hldgs	303½p (-11½p)
Laporte	667½p (17½p)
Laird	386½p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

Mid-air rendezvous

THE primary goal of Airbus must be to catch up with *Boeing. The* McDonnell Douglas merger last December shattered the illusion that Airbus could catch up quickly with the aircraft builders from Seattle. Boeing is currently set to dominate the world aerospace sector *for decades to come*.

But an Airbus merger with Lockheed would be a dramatic move that could create a fighting force equal to Boeing-McDonnell Douglas. So far, Airbus and Boeing have only been competing in civil aviation. Although the European consortium made huge strides over the first half of this decade, it still couldn't *match the Americans' market* share, let alone their productivity rates. But now both businesses are putting more emphasis on the military side by linking up with *Lockheed and* McDonnell, the world's number one and two defence groups respectively. As Lockheed is the bigger of the two, the balance will be redressed towards *Airbus. British Aerospace* shareholders have already enjoyed a strong *share price rise*, helped in part by the Airbus decision to convert from a consortium into an ordinary company and float on the stock market.

But the news gets better. Assuming that *transatlantic* co-operation will lead to a further relaxation of workshare arrangements, British Aerospace will gain a greater share of Airbus contracts. BAe investors should also remember that their company is already co-operating with Lockheed on a number of defence projects. The merger talks are good news for BAe shareholders, al*though the* benefits may only be seen in the long term. Stay on board.

Cap & Reg

AT FIRST SIGHT, it would appear that Capital & Re*gional properties has been* well and truly ripped off in its enthusiasm to shift away from office properties to the bright lights of shopping centres.

It has handed Grosvenor Asset Management a £32 million profit on centres bought less than a year ago, and seems to care very litte about *the money lost*.

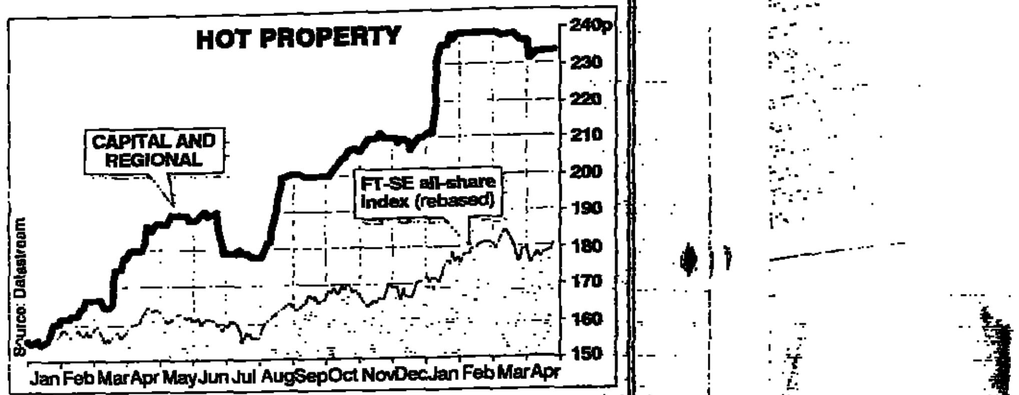
But its glee is well founded. Office-weighted property *stocks have taken a beating* of late, and the sector is still a hotbed of outdated valua*tions and over-renting*.

Now C&R has catapulted itself into a major player in shopping centres, and is braced to enjoy the full flow of *the* consumer spending upturn.

If it lives up to the track record established on its four other centres, a re-rating would *seem sure to follow*.

In Aberdeen, it has almost *trebled the* visitors in three years through stunts like hiring Marilyn Monroe *lookalikes to lure in the* shoppers — not the kind of tricks expected by an average dowdy property company.

In Wood Green, it worked the same magic and lifted rentals by 13 per cent simply through good *marketing* ideas. The same magic has been sprinkled on its other centres, and now it is sitting with five well-positioned high yielding properties without having set any of its clever tricks into action. The *shares should* benefit from a rerating.



Source: Datastream

Millwall

FOR those who are still depressed about their Newcastle United shares, there is always a bright side. *You could be an investor in* Millwall. The shares stood at 4p when the owners of the Division Two club went into administration earlier this year, and the rescue rights issue to bring the company back to life is at only 1p.

So should holders invest? Well, they have until July 11 to make up their minds, but the issues are *fairly* clear cut. If Millwall is going to remain as a struggling football club, even with less expensive playing staff after the cost cutting by Buchler Phillips, the administrators, then it would be wise to steer clear.

But Then Paphitis, the new chairman, has much bigger ideas. He hopes to use the club's well-regarded but poorly located stadium for music events. Investors have heard all this before, and the stadium remained sorely underused. But there are a couple of reasons to give Paphitis the benefit of the doubt. He has a good track record buying companies out of receivership — notably *retailers* Ryman and Contessa — and making them profitable. He also wants to use *Millwall as the starting* point for a more broadly based leisure group.

At 1p a share, backing Theo is a gamble worth taking.

Utilities

ROOM for some rejoicing in the Northern Ireland Electricity camp after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reduced the scale of pricing curbs planned by the regulator. But the joy was short lived. The regulator *now says that he may ignore* some of the MMC recommendations. With that threat he has not only plunged NIE into further uncertainty, but he has also cast a shadow over all utility stocks. Companies and regulators are expected to argue over pricing reviews and if *the utility* disagrees with the regulator the argument can be put to the MMC. That in itself is a risk because the company could *suffer* a more severe ruling from the MMC.

But *the* NIE case opens the *possibility that even if the* MMC is kind to the utility then the regulator can refuse to accept all the commission's recommendations. If any subsequent legal challenges allow the regulators to get away with this, then we can *expect leaner times for utility* shares. That, along with the windfall tax, reduces the at*tractions of utility shares — time to consider cashing in* those profits.

Shareholders in the former British Gas should be especially aware. They *may* be hoping that the MMC tempers pricing plans for Trans-Co, especially after the MMC asked for more time. But whether the gas regulator will acknowledge a milder regime is another matter.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1035-1034	Jul	1067-1064
Jul	1054-1053	Sep	1078-1076
Sep	1066-1065	Dec	1090-1085
Dec	1036-1035	Mar	1102-1095
Mar	1046-1044		
May	1056-1055		Volume: 11545

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1592-1590	Jan	1630 SLR
Jul	1630-1625	Mar	1610-1600
Sep	1650-1646	May	1600-1580
Nov	1650 SLR		Volume: 5416

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	302.1-00.1
Spot: unq		*May*	*301.8-99.1*
Aug	313.4-12.7	Aug	302.8-98.0
Oct	305.3-04.5	Oct	299.8-95.0
Dec	302.8-01.0		Volume: 543

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on 24 April

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	101.59	119.52	94.63
(+/-)	+12.54	+0.23	+1.94
Eng/Wales:	101.65	132.75	95.20
(+/-)	+12.52	+0.67	+3.31
(%)	+2.0	+10.0	-6.0
Scotland:	90.52	125.82	92.77
(+/-)	+11.20	-9.79	+3.19
(%)	-26.0	-17.0	+18.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.00	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.35	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.40	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	19.90	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.90	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	199 (+1)	203 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	*170 (+2)*	*172 (+2)*
3.5 Fuel Oil	80 (n/c)	82 (n/c)
Naphtha	175 (n/c)	179 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	165.25-65.50	Aug	168.25-68.50
Jun	165.75-66.00	Sep	170.50-70.75
Jul	*167.00-67.25*		Vol: 14248

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.33-18.34	Sep	n/a
Jul	*18.41-18.42*	*Oct*	*18.70 SLR*
Aug	n/a		Vol: 16466

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		*LIFFE BARLEY* (close £/t)	
May	93.75	May	85.00
Jul	97.00	Sep	89.50
Sep	*94.00*	*Nov*	*91.50*
Nov	96.00	Jan	93.50
Jan	98.10	Mar	95.50
Volume: 516		Volume: 0	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	20.0	20.0
Jun	unq	43.0
Nov		55.0
		Volume: 207

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 71.50-72.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 97	1270	1270	1270
May 97	1340	1305	1335
Jun 97	1250	1230	1250
Jul 97	1190	1170	1190

Vol: 190 lots *Open Interest: 3061*

Index 1274 -7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2568.0-2569.0	2368.0-2369.0	1810625
Lead ($/tonne)	624.00-625.00	633.00-634.00	121850
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1249.5-1250.0	1272.0-1273.0	662950
Tin ($/tonne)	5690.0-5695.0	5715.0-5720.0	14075
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1568.0-1568.5	1596.0-1597.0	1884650
Nickel ($/tonne)	7320.0-7325.0	7430.0-7440.0	83028

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom	430	25	34½	40	14	20	29½
(*433)	460	8½	17	22½	39½	43½	53½
ASDA	110	10½	12½	14½	2½	5	6
(*117)	120	5	7½	9½	6½	9½	10½
Boots	650	50	58	65	11½	17	22½
(*690)	700	19½	31½	39	34½	41	46½
Br Airways	650	59	69	79½	11½	18	24
(*695)	700	25½	41	51	32	40½	46
BP	700	34	50½	60	21½	31	39
(*711)	750	13½	28½	37½	51	61	66½
Br Steel	140	10½	11	13	7	9	12½
(*145½)	160	2½	3½	5½	22½	23½	26
C & W	460	30	39	49½	19	25½	31½
(*471½)	500	12½	21½	32	42	48½	54
CU	650	44½	65	74½	27	46½	52½
(*660½)	700	23	43	57	55	78	84½
ICI	700	33	42½	55½	21	33½	38½
(*702½)	750	13	21½	34½	52	64	68
Land Sec	750	46	54	63	11½	18½	24½
(*787)	800	15½	28	37½	39	45	50½
M & S	460	43½	51½	57½	6½	10	14
(*498½)	500	17½	27½	34	23	26	30½
Nat West	700	40½	53	68	23	38	45
(*709½)	750	18½	31	45½	51	66½	73
Safeway plc	330	22½	29	35	13	16½	21
(*344)	360	8	15½	21½	31	33½	37½
Sainsbury	300	27	31½	35½	6½	9½	12
(*323½)	330	8½	16	21	21½	24½	27
Shell	1050	57	90	94	21½	40½	48
(*1071½)	1100	31	53½	68	46½	65½	72½
Smkl Bch	900	73½	96	111	21	34½	43½
(*945½)	950	45	68½	85	41½	55½	66
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	96½	135½	175½	65	90	102½
(*1811½)	1900	53½	89	127½	121½	144	155
	Series	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
BAT Ind	500	43	53	64½	18½	32½	38½
(*517½)	550	20½	31	42	45	60½	66
Vodafone	260	20½	28½	34½	9½	14½	18
(*270)	280	11	19½	25	20	25	28
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	500	18	31½	40	6½	19	23½
(*509)	550	1½	11½	18½	42	49	53
Ladbroke	230	14	22	26	2	6	9½
(*232)	240	3	11	15½	11	15	19
Utd Bisc	220	8½	17	21	4½	9½	14½
(*223½)	240	1	8½	12	18	20½	26

April 25, 1997 Tot: 31392 **Call:** 18411 **Put:** 12981 **FTSE Call:** 2178 **Put:** 2344

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	500	30½	40	48½	12½	17½	23
(*519)	550	7½	17	25½	42	45½	50
Thames W	650	46	54½	60	28½	33	41
(*677½)	700	22	31	37½	57	61½	69
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BTR	240	13½	22½	26	3	7½	11½
(*251)	260	3	12	16	12½	16	21½
Br Aero	1300	64	105½	129	10½	31	45
(*1347½)	1350	33	77	102½	29	52	67
Br Telcm	420	27	38	41	1½	16½	20
(*443½)	460	4½	16½	20	19	40	41½
Cadbury	500	21½	38	44½	5½	15	20
(*514½)	550	2½	15	22½	36½	42½	47
Guinness	500	21	37	46	5	13½	18
(*513½)	550	2	13	22½	37	40½	44
GEC	360	14½	23	29	4	15½	19½
(*368½)	390	2	9½	16	22	34½	37
Hanson	300	10	21½	26½	7½	15	20
(*300½)	330	1½	9	14	29½	33½	38
LASMO	220	15	23	29	3½	9	11
(*231)	240	5	12½	19½	13	18	20
LucasVarity	180	12	16½	21	2½	6½	9½
(*189½)	200	2½	7½	12	12½	17½	20½
Pilkingtn	110	7½	10½	—	1½	6½	—
(*114½)	120	2½	6	—	6½	12	—
Prudential	550	33	51	61	4½	15	23½
(*576)	600	8	24	35½	28½	39	48
Redland	330	27	31	39½	4½	13	18½
(*354)	360	6½	16	25	21	29	34
R-Royce	240	10	20	25½	5	11½	15
(*244½)	260	2½	11½	16½	17½	22½	25
Tesco	360	11	24	30	7	14	19
(*364)	390	1½	10½	16½	27	31½	35½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4367)

	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500
Calls						
May	154	113½	76½	48½	28	14
Jun	195	155½	124½	94	70½	48
Jul	224	186½	153	121½	97½	74½
Aug	237	204½	173	141½	118	94½
Dec	—	295½	—	230	—	182
Puts						
May	18	28	41½	65	90½	135½
Jun	49½	62½	81	101½	130	159½
Jul	68½	83½	99½	118½	145	173
Aug	82½	100½	119	138½	165	192½
Dec	—	145	—	181½	—	232½

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Abby Nat	800	51	68½	84½	24½	40	47½
(*816)	850	27½	44½	60	51	66	73
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1050	78	97½	118½	23½	42	52½
(*1088½)	1100	49½	70½	92	45	65	76
Natl Pwr	500	42	46	49	23½	27	32½
(*524½)	550	17	21½	26	52½	55½	60½
	Series	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
Glaxo W	1100	78½	97½	130	23½	42½	51½
(*1142)	1150	49	68	93	45	65½	74
HSBC	1500	116½	146	179½	37	60½	77
(*1562½)	1600	61	93	127	82	108½	124
Reuter	600	46½	60	76	16	24	32
(*622½)	650	21½	35½	50½	41½	49	56½
Royal & Sun	420	48½	59	65	5	12½	17
(*458)	460	22½	34½	42½	19	28	33½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Blue Circ	390	30	43	49½	1½	8	14
(*416½)	420	9½	25	32	11½	20	26½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Kingfshr	650	25½	46½	57	8	20	28½
(*665)	700	4½	23	33	37½	47	54½
	Series	**Jun**			**Jun**		
Br Gas	220	20	—	—	6	—	—
(*238½)	240	6½	—	—	16½	—	—
	Series	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Dixons	500	24	39½	46	17	30	34½
(*504)	550	7	15½	25½	48½	60	64
EMI Group	1200	60½	91	110½	28	55½	69
(*1220)	1250	36	66½	87	53	81	94½
Tarmac	120	10	14	15½	3½	5½	8
(*126)	130	4½	8½	10½	8	10	13
Hillsdwn	180	6½	8½	—	8	10	—
(*184½)	200	1	2½	—	25	25½	—
Lonrho	130	11	14	17	2	5½	7
(*136½)	140	5½	8½	12	6½	10½	12
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	15	21	23½	6	14	15½
(*266½)	280	5½	11½	14½	16½	25	27½
Lloyds TSB	500	63	73½	85½	3	9½	16½
(*556½)	550	26½	40½	55	16½	27	35½
Scot Pwr	360	23½	31½	34½	9½	17½	20½
(*374)	390	8	16½	20	24	34	37
Unilever	1600	60	98½	123	26	41½	53½
(*1621½)	1700	17½	50½	72	84½	95½	105½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 172289	Jun 97	109-26	109-00	108-21	100-34	38417
	Sep 97	108-18	108-18	108-18	108-18	100
German Govt Bond (Bund) *Previous open interest: 293804*	Jun 97	100.43	100.54	100.28	100.44	141468
	Sep 97	*99.36*	*99.42*	99.30	99.39	*2131*
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 108655	Jun 97	126.83	126.85	125.80	125.95	38431
	Sep 97				126.15	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	*Jun 97*	*125.35*	*125.69*	*125.35*	*125.60*	4377
	Sep 97	124.27	124.40	124.27	124.35	532
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.35	93.36	93.32	93.34	11676
	Sep 97	93.07	93.08	93.03	93.06	13364
Previous open interest: 466887	Dec 97	92.83	92.84	92.79	92.82	14646
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1351009	Jun 97	96.75	96.76	96.74	96.75	16019
	Sep 97	96.70	96.70	96.67	96.69	16963
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 320619	Jun 97	93.08	93.08	93.00	93.01	17554
	Sep 97	93.35	93.35	93.24	93.27	14018
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97				99.16	0
	Dec 97				98.97	0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 121141	Jun 97	98.14	98.17	98.12	98.16	5829
	Sep 97	98.09	98.12	98.06	98.10	3009
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 32409	Jun 97	95.73	95.76	95.72	95.73	1002
	Sep 97	95.74	95.76	95.72	95.72	526
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 63266	Jun 97	4401.0	4407.0	4381.0	4394.0	9040
	Sep 97	4428.0	4428.0	4408.0	4421.0	46

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5 Week fixed: 6⅛

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: *2 mth* 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth: 6⅛ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-6⅛

Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6⅛.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.56	n/a	5.73	5.96	6.29
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7-6⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1,241m allotted: £200m: Bids: £98.47% received: 95%: Last week: £98.49% received: 87%: Avge rate: £6.1348% last wk £6.0529%: Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	6⅛-5⅛	5⅛-4⅛
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅛
French Franc:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅛
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	2⅛-1⅛
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $340.60-340.90 **Close:** $342.30-342.80 **High:** $342.30-342.80

Low: $340.60-340.90 **AM:** $341.35 **PM:** $342.25

Krugerrand: $341.75-343.75 (£210.00-212.00)

Platinum: $379.25 (£233.55) **Silver:** $4.73 (£2.905) **Palladium:** $161.50 (£99.45)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 26	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1310-3.1475	3.1431-3.1475	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	57.420-57.761	57.644-57.761	17-12pr	49-42pr
Copenhagen	10.600-10.657	10.647-10.657	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0461-1.0500	1.0481-1.0499	6-2pr	19-13pr
Frankfurt	2.7834-2.7991	2.7957-2.7991	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Lisbon	278.47-280.59	279.89-280.39	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Madrid	234.73-235.95	235.76-235.95	18-7pr	61-43pr
Milan	2770.9-2788.0	2784.2-2788.0	13-28ds	27-50ds
Montreal	2.2618-2.2690	2.2663-2.2685	0.59-0.54pr	1.21-1.13pr
New York	1.6226-1.6258	1.6226-1.6236	0.082-0.062pr	0.255-0.225pr
Oslo	11.443-11.471	11.456-11.471	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Paris	9.3940-9.4510	9.4419-9.4510	2⅛-2⅛pr	6⅛-6⅛pr
Stockholm	12.474-12.649	12.629-12.649	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	204.05-204.78	204.49-204.78	⅛-⅛pr	3⅛-3pr
Vienna	19.588-19.700	19.676-19.700	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3712-2.3831	2.3808-2.3831	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2868-1.2876
Austria	12.08-12.09
Belgium (Com)	35.43-35.44
Canada	1.3950-1.3960
Denmark	6.5443-6.5463
France	5.8032-5.8058
Germany	1.7175-1.7185
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Ireland	1.5485-1.5495
Italy	1711.69-1712.30
Japan	125.65-125.75
Malaysia	2.5075-2.5095
Netherlands	1.9320-1.9330
Norway	7.0485-7.0558
Portugal	172.30-172.60
Singapore	1.4425-1.4432
Spain	144.81-144.90
Sweden	7.7382-7.7457
Switzerland	1.4638-1.4648

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6244-1.6271
Australia dollar	2.0898-2.0925
Bahrain dinar	1.7197-1.7241
Brazil real*	0.6060-0.6180
China yuan	13.310-13.610
Cyprus pound	0.8240-0.8340
Finland markka	8.3225-8.4385
Greece drachma	439.5-446.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.5811-12.5905
India rupee	57.60-58.56
Indonesia rupiah	3926.0-3994.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4890-0.4990
Malaysia ringgit	4.0727-4.0764
New Zealand dollar	2.3380-2.3418
Pakistan rupee	*64.80 Buy*
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8525-5.9765
Singapore dollar	2.3426-2.3452
S Africa rand (com)	7.1680-7.2700
U A E dirham	5.9025-6.0365

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	894	Land Secs	1,600
ASDA Gp	*18,200*	*Legal & Gn*	*9,100*
Abbey Ntl	4,200	Lloyds TSB	6,700
Allied Dom	2,100	LucasVarity	5,000
AB Foods	1,600	Marks Spr	8,300
BAA	5,500	Mercury Asset	80
BAT Inds	7,100	NatWst Bk	4,200
BG	10,600	Nat Grid	4,600
BOC	534	Nat Power	4,300
BP	10,300	Next	3,200
BSkyB	1,800	Orange	441
BTR	4,900	P & O	2,100
BT	29,200	Pearson	3,100
Bk of Scot	1,800	PowerGen	2,200
Barclays	2,400	Prudential	3,600
Bass	1,100	RMC	2,200
Blue Circle	7,900	RTZ	2,900
Boots	2,400	Railtrack	1,500
BAe	1,700	Rank Group	2,000
BA	3,900	Reckitt Col	1,500
British Land	1,800	Reed Intl	2,000
Brit Steel	8,100	Rentokil Inl	939
Burmah Cstl	*726*	*Reuters*	*10,000*
Burton	2,700	Rolls Royce	4,200
Cable Wire	5,600	Royal & Sun	2,600
Cadbury	1,900	Royal Bk Sct	6,100
Carlton Cms	*1,600*	*Safeway*	*3,600*
Centrica	15,900	Sainsbury	923
Cm Union	9,000	Schroders	124
Dixons	759	Scot & New	1,300
EMI	1,900	Scot Power	3,800
Energy Gp	3,700	Svrn Trent	2,100
Enterpr Oil	1,600	Shell Trans	4,700
GKN	1,700	Siebe	2,600
GRE	4,900	SmKl Bch	5,300
GUS	4,600	Smith Nph	5,500
Gen Acc	3,600	Smiths Inds	488
Gen Elec	8,400	Std Chartd	1,600
Glaxo Well	3,800	TI Gp	2,900
Granada	2,800	Tate & Lyle	2,500
Grand Met	3,000	Tesco	8,600
Guinness	1,300	Thames W	2,200
HSBC	1,300	Tomkins	2,700
Hanson	6,300	Unilever	1,000
Hays	1,600	Utd Utilities	1,300
ICI	5,100	Utd News	171
Imp Tob	4,500	Vodafone	4,800
Kingfisher	2,400	Whitbread	1,500
LASMO	374	Wolseley	816
Ladbroke	4,800	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Apr 25 midday	Apr 24 close
AMP Inc	35½	34½
AMR Corp	89½	91½
AT & T	31½	30½
Abbott Labs	59	59½
Advanced Micro	40½	40½
Aetna Life	84½	84½
Ahmanson (HF)	35½	36½
Air Prod & Chem	68½	67½
AirTouch Comm	23	22½
Albertson's	32½	32½
Alcan Alumnm	32½	32½
Allied Signal	69½	69½
Alum Co of Am	69½	69½
Amerada Hess	48½	49
Amer Brands	53	53
Amer El Power	39½	39½
Amer Express	63½	63½
Amer Genl Corp	39½	39½
Amer Home Pr	64½	64½
Amer Intl	118½	118½
Amer Stores	44½	44½
Amer Standard	42½	42½
Ameritech	58	56½
Amoco	82½	82½
Andrew Corp	25	25½
Anheuser-Busch	41½	41½
Apple Computer	17½	17½
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	3½	3½
Armstrng Wrld	63½	63½
Asarco	28	28½
Atl Richfield	134½	133½
Auto Data Pro	43½	44
Avery Dennison	35½	35½
Avon Products	58	57½
Baker Hughes	35½	36½
Baltim Gas & El	24½	25
Banc One	40½	40½
BankAmerica	108½	106½
Bank of NY	36	35½
Bankers Tr NY	77½	77½
Barnett Banks	45½	45½
Bausch & Lomb	38½	38½
Baxter Intl	46½	46½
Becton Dickinsn	45½	45½
Bell Atlantic	62½	58½
Bell Industries	16½	16
BellSouth	42½	41½
Black & Decker	32½	32½
Block (H&R)	30½	30½
Boeing	101½	101½
Boise Cascade	32½	32½
Boston Scien	42½	42½
Bristol Myrs Sq	62½	62½
Browning Ferris	27½	27½
Brunswick	27	27½
Burlington Nthn	76	76½
CMS Energy Corp	31½	32½
CNA Financial	97½	96½
CPC Intl	81½	81
CSX	45½	46
Campbell Soup	47½	47½
Can Pacific	23½	23½
Carolina Pwr	33	33½
Case Corp	54½	55½
Caterpillar	86½	87½
Central & SW	18½	18½
Champion Intl	46	46½
Chase Manhat	85½	85½
Chevron Corp	65½	66½
Chrysler	29½	30
Chubb Corp	54½	54½
Cigna Corp	144½	147½
Citicorp	105½	104½
Clorox	122½	123½
Coastal Corp	46½	46½
Coca Cola	60½	60
Coca Cola Ent	60	60½
Colgate-Palm	107½	106½
Columbia Gas	61½	60½
Columbia/HCA	34½	34½
Compaq Comp	78½	79½
Comp Asi Int	47½	48½
Conagra	56½	56½
Conrail	113½	113½
Cons Edison	27½	27½
Cons Nat Gas	49½	49½
Cooper Inds	44½	44½
Corestates	49½	49½
Corning Inc	46½	46½
Crown Cork	54½	54½
Dana Corp	31½	31½
Dayton Hudson	41½	41½
Deere	45½	45½
Delta Air Lines	91½	93½
Deluxe Corp	30½	30½
Digital Equip	29½	29½
Dillard Dept St	30½	30½
Disney (Walt)	77½	78½
Dominion Res	33½	33½
Donelley (RR)	32½	32½
Dover Corp	52½	53½
Dow Chemical	80½	81½
Dow Jones	39½	39½
Dresser	29½	30
Duke Power	42½	42½
Dun & Brdstrt	24½	24½
Du Pont	101½	102½
Eastman Chem	51½	52
Eastman Kodak	79½	80
Eaton Corp	74½	74½
Edison Intl	19½	20½
Elect Data Sys	42	42
Emerson Elec	48½	49½
Engelhard Corp	20½	20½
Enron Corp	37½	37
Entergy	23½	23½
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	53½	54½
FMC Corp	64½	64½
FPL Group	43½	43½
Federal Express	53	53½
First Bk Sys	72	72½
First Union Rlty	13½	13½
Fleet Finl Grp	58½	58½
Fluor Corp	53½	53½
Ford Motor	34½	34½
GTE Corp	44½	43½
Gannett	85	84½
Gap Inc Del	30½	30½
Gencorp	18½	18½
Gen Dynamics	70½	70½
Gen Electric	105½	106½
Gen Mills	58½	58½
Gen Motors	55½	55½
Gen Reinsurance	160½	160½
Gen Signal	38½	39
Genuine Parts	31½	31½
Georgia Pac	77	77½
Gillette	79½	79½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	37½	37½
Goodrich (BF)	39	38½
Goodyear Tire	52½	52½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	24	23½
Great Wstn Fin	39½	39½
Halliburton	72½	72½
Harcourt General	45	44½
Heinz (HJ)	40½	40½
Hercules	39½	39½
Hershey Foods	53½	52½
Hewlett Packard	49½	50½
Hilton Hotels	26	26½
Home Depot	56½	57½
Homestake Mng	13½	13
Honeywell	69	68½
Household Intl	82	82½
Houston Inds	19½	19½
Humana	20½	20½
ITT Corp	58½	58
Ikon Office	23½	23½
Illinois Tool	90	89½
Illinova	20½	20½
INCO	31½	31½
Ingersoll Rand	47½	47½
Inland Steel	22	22½
Intel Corp	144½	146½
IBM	151½	153½
Intl Flav & Fr	41½	41½
Intl Paper	41½	42
James River Va	28½	28½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57½	58½
Kellogg	65½	66
Kerr-McGee	60½	60½
Kimberly-Clark	50	50
Kmart	13½	13½
Knight-Ridder	37½	37½
Lilly (Eli)	84½	85½
Limited Inc	17½	17½
Lincoln Nat	52½	53½
Litton	41½	41½
Liz Claiborne	45½	45½
Lockheed Martin	89½	89
Louisiana Pac	18½	18½
MCI Comm	37½	37½
Manpower Inc	39½	39½
Marriott Int	53½	52½
Marsh & McLnn	115½	115½
Mascn Corp	37	37
May Dept St	45½	46½
Maytag Corp	21½	22
McDonalds	51½	51½
McDonnell D	60½	60½
McGraw Hill	51½	51½
Mead Corp	55½	55
Medtronic	65½	66½
Mellon Bk	77½	77½
Merck Inc	87½	87½
Merrill Lynch	87	87½
Microsoft	114½	114½
Minnesota Mine	85½	86½
Mobil Corp	124½	124½
Monsanto	39½	40½
Morgan (JP)	96	95½
Motorola Inc	57½	58
Natl Semi	23½	23½
Natl Service Ind	41½	42
Navistar Intl	9½	9½
NY Times A	41½	42
Newmont Mng	35½	34½
Niag Mohawk	8½	8½
Nike B	55½	54½
NL Industries	9½	9½
Noram Energy	14½	14½
Nordstrom	37½	37½
Norfolk Sthrn	89½	89½
Nthn State Pwr	45½	45½
Norwest Corp	47	46½
Nynex Corp	47½	44½
Occidental Pet	22½	22
Ohio Edison	19½	19½
Oracle	39½	39½
Oryx Energy Co	19½	19½
Owens Corning	39½	39½
PHH Corp	45	45½
PPG Industries	53½	53½
PNC Bank	36	36½
PP&L Res	19½	19½
Paccar Inc	72½	73½
Pacificorp	19½	19½
Pac Enterprises	30½	30½
Pall Corp	22½	23
Parker Hannifin	48½	48½
Peco Energy	19	19
Penney (JC)	46½	46
Pennzoil	48	48½
Pepsico	32½	33½
Pfizer	92½	92½
Pharm & Upjhn	30	30
Phelps Dodge	75½	75½
Philip Morris	40½	41½
Phillips Pet	39½	39½
Pitney Bowes	59	59½
Polaroid	44½	44½
Procter & Gmbl	120½	123
Providian	55½	54½
Pub Serv E & G	23½	23½
Quaker Oats	39½	40
Ralston Purina	81½	80½
Raychem Corp	63½	63½
Raytheon	42½	42½
Reebok Intl	37½	37½
Reynolds Metals	66½	66½
Rockwell Intl	66½	66
Rohm & Haas	76½	76
Royal Dutch	177½	178½
Rubbermaid	24	24½
SBC Comms	51½	50½
Safeco Corp	39½	39½
St Paul's Cos	65½	64½
Salomon Inc	50½	49½
Sara Lee Corp	40½	41½
Schering Plough	77	77½
Schlumberger	112½	111½
Seagram	37½	37½
Sears Roebuck	48	48½
Shell Trans	104½	104½
Sherwin Wllms	28½	29½
Skyline Corp	21	21½
Snap-On-Tools	37	36½
Southern Co	20½	20
Sprint Corp	42½	42½
Stanley Works	37½	37½
Sun Company	25½	25½
Sun Microsys	27½	28½
Suntrust	47½	47½
Supervalu	29½	29½
Sysco Corp	34½	34½
TRW Inc	50½	50½
TCC Inds	1½	1½
TIG Hldgs	27½	27½
Tandem Comp	12½	12½
Tandy Corp	50½	50½
Temple Inland	54½	54½
Tenneco	38½	38½
Texaco	103½	103½
Texas Inst	83½	84
Texas Utilities	31½	31½
Textron	107½	106½
Time Warner	44½	44½
Times-Mirror A	55½	55½
Timken	56½	56½
Torchmark	57½	57½
Toys R Us	26½	27½
Transamerica	79½	80½
Travelers	49½	49½
Tribune	43	42½
Tyco Intl	58½	59½
UST Inc	26½	26½
UAL	74½	76
US Inds	35½	35½
US West Comm	32½	31½
US West Media	16½	16½
USAirways Group	31½	31½
USX Marathon	26½	26½
Unicom	19½	19½
Unilever NV	193½	194½
Union Camp	47½	48½
Union Carbide	47½	48
Union Pacific	61	61
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USF&G Corp	18½	18½
US Life	46½	46½
United Tech	75½	75½
Unocal Corp	37½	37½
VF Corp	69½	70½
WMX Tech	28½	28½
Wal-Mart Stores	27½	27½
Warner-Lambert	95½	95½
Wells Fargo	256½	254½
Westinghouse El	17½	17½
Weyerhaeuser	45½	45½
Whirlpool	46½	48
Whitman	23½	23½
Winn Dixie	33½	34
Woolworth	20½	20½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	57	57½
Xerox	59½	59½
Yellow Corp	20½	20½
Zenith Elect	10½	11½

THE TIMES S

FOO

Rudg
Vale
to un
port

هكذا من الأصل

UNFAIR SHARES 36

Why payout divides two sisters

WEEKEND
MONEY

PENSION PLIGHT 35

Why a service widow cannot get a loan

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

ANGUS MEWSE

Pension power gathers steam

Sara McConnell finds out what the latest tussle between firms and scheme members will mean

A struggle is fast developing over a fortune that may amount to as much as £60 billion. This is the estimate of the surpluses generated by UK pension funds whose total assets are £65 billion. But to whom does this money belong? Workers or bosses?

Dennis Cockerill, chairman of the recently formed Committee of Unilever Pensioners (Coup) action group, said the committee had been "snowed under" with letters of support from retired employees at other companies, since revelations that it was planning to challenge Unilever's plans for the use of its £800 million surplus.

Employers are already facing a number of high profile challenges to their plans for using surpluses which have built up in the fund. Booming stock markets in the 1980s swelled pension fund coffers, and surpluses built up as the recession started to bite in the 1990s and companies took on fewer staff, according to the National Association of Pension Funds. But the ownership of surpluses has become a bone of contention between employers and pensioners. Pensioners and employees argue that any surpluses should belong to them because the fund is set up for their benefit. But employers point out that they contribute on employees' behalf and guarantee pension payments.

Next month, the National Grid will appeal against a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman that it must repay £46 million of a £70 million surplus which it had "misused" to pay for early redundancies. If the ombudsman's decision is upheld, other privatised utilities could be forced to repay a total of more than £1 billion to their pension funds. In a separate case, the Government was told by the ombudsman to repay £163 million to the National Bus pension fund which it took when the company was privatised in 1990.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch company, is braced for determined lobbying by pensioners at its annual meeting in two weeks. Pensioners are angry that their share of the £800 million surplus will total only £70 million. Mr Cockerill, of Coup, said: "We would like to see the enormous surplus shared more fairly with more money for pensioners, deferred pensioners and dependants." Unilever proposes to keep £500 million as a "cushion" in case of a future downturn in the fortunes of the pension fund. A further £220 million will be used to give the company and its current employees a "contributions holiday". Pensioners will get a "special increase" of £70 million, concentrated on the oldest pensioners and those on pensions of less than £5,000 a year. Out of the company's 43,000 pensioners, 38,000 will benefit from extra money.

But protesters are calling on the company to use part of the surplus to uprate their pension payments over the past four years by the maximum 3 per cent allowed by the Inland Revenue. So who actually owns the surplus and how can scheme members be sure they are being fairly treated? Here are some answers.

Q ***How do I find out if there is a surplus?***

A You should be able to find out from the scheme accounts or actuarial reports, which you have a right to request under the new Pensions Act implemented last month. It will only be an issue if your scheme is based on your final salary because only in such schemes does your employer guarantee to pay you a certain level of pension. Any money left over after it has satisfied these guarantees will be surplus.

Q **Who owns the surplus? *Surely it belongs to the employees and pensioners* who have contributed?**

A Not necessarily. The company could equally well argue that it has a right to at least some of the money because it has probably contributed to it on your behalf. It also has a duty to put more money into the fund if there is the threat of a shortfall, so could argue it has a right to share in the good times.

Q **So what *options does* my employer have? Could he take the whole surplus leaving nothing for us?**

A Almost certainly not. What he can do depends on the terms of the scheme. Some only allow surpluses to be used for improving benefits for employees and pensioners. Others allow the employer to use some of the fund to offset his costs in providing pensions, or for other purposes.

The new Pensions Act has strenghtened your hand. Now the trustees, who should act on your behalf as members, can override the scheme rules if they think it necessary to keep the scheme solvent. If the employer wants to take a contributions holiday and the trustees think this will risk technical insolvency in future, for example, the trustees could act, says Mark Atkinson, of Cameron McKenna, the solicitors.

If your employer wants to take cash out of the scheme, the trustees must agree. They have to tell you and give you two months to respond before a second notice confirms what will happen.

Q **Surely trustees should never agree to employers taking cash out of funds?**

A In some cases, taking the cash would be the only way to avoid a hefty tax bill for your scheme. The Inland Revenue does not allow a scheme to have a surplus of more than 5 per cent over what it needs to meet its liabilities. The trustees may also be allowing the employer to do this as part of a deal to improve your pension.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Highs and lows on the mortgage front

Millions of people with standard variable rate mortgages from different lenders are paying very different amounts for their loans, according to *Moneyfacts*, the monthly savings magazine.

Over the 25-year period of the loan, those with the most expensive mortgages could end up paying up to £10,000 more than those with the cheaper loans.

The reason is that lenders now charge different variable rates of interest. At one time, all lenders had the same standard variable rate. Now many of the mutual societies offer lower rates of interest of loans as part of their mutual benefit packages.

According to *Moneyfacts*, the cheapest variable rate loan is from the Yorkshire Building Society. The total amount paid annually in interest on a £50,000 mortgage is £3,436.

One of the most expensive mortgages is a Bank of Ireland variable rate loan, where the total annual amount paid on a £50,000 loan is £3,769.

Other cheaper loans include those offered by the Nationwide, where the annual repayments are £3,445, and the Bradford & Bingley, where the sum would be £3,553. Yorkshire charges interest of 6.94 per cent on its variable rate loans, while Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley charge 6.99 per cent. Bank of Ireland charges 7.49 per cent.

Among the more expensive loans are those offered by Leeds & Holbeck, Birmingham Midshires and West Bromwich.

The annual repayment on a £50,000 loan from the Halifax, the UK's biggest lender, would be £3,611, £175 a year more than the cheapest mortgage. It charges 7.25 per cent.

CAROLINE MERRELL

The many, not the few

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Throughout the election campaign, the Labour Party has tried to push one theme: it would govern for the many, not the few. This slogan ranges from tax and education to sport. If it means anything, it should also favour investors. By this time next week, unless voters or Tony Blair change their minds, new Labour's Gordon Brown will sit behind a desk in Number 11 Downing Street, not-so-new Labour's Margaret Beckett will be sizing up the presidential quarters at the Department of Trade and Industry and investors will be waiting to find out if it does.

The numbers, though not always accurate, are clear enough. Most people in work are members of a pension plan. Pension savers are the many not the few. Families that draw private pensions are increasingly also the many, not the few, long before Labour's proposed stakeholder sees the light of day. So please Mr Brown, if you are Chancellor, do not punish the many by cutting long-term pension returns to raise short-term cash.

About three million people are thought to own trust units for simplicity and to spread risk. That is roughly three times the numbers in higher education. So please, Mr Brown, if you want to distinguish between short-term and long-term capital gains, do not make investment in unit and investment trusts more complex for the many. After pensions, personal equity plans have become the key vehicle for modest long-term savings. So please do not cut the tax breaks that pay for the charges or impose needless new restrictions.

For Labour, however, the biggest cultural shock is to realise that private shareholders are also the many, not the few. About 11 million people own shares individually. Conversion of more building societies and the Norwich Union should swell this figure to at least 15 million, even if most of those who hang on own other shares of some kind.

The shareholder interest will be more than double the 6.8 million members of trade unions, three times the 4.2 million who work in manufacturing, energy and water put together.

Wider share ownership is here. Unless new Labour treats it as an aberration, it will not go away. For better or worse, most of the millions who bought privatised shares have stayed. In millions of cases, they have stayed for more than a decade, promoting the identity of interest once sought between ordinary people and great businesses. Many of those who will own shares in the Halifax will keep them for a decade too.

Sadly, the Tories did not stick to the John Redwood's idea. Once the Portillo tendency reached the Cabinet, it ignored two million small shareholders of British Gas, sequestered much of their business and rewrote the rules against what was left. Labour had an impeccable precedent for its utilities levy. Yet no tax could be more accurately targeted to hit small investors of modest means. Worthy as the cause may be, the utility levy will hit the many to help the few.

Investors must hope that this levy, though a brainchild of Mr Brown, is a relic of 1992, not a portent of what else Labour has in mind. It may be inconvenient that most shareholders mainly hold shares in utilities, but the inconvenience is not unique. How whizzo it would be if small investors all backed new smaller companies. In reality, most hold stock in the largest, best-entrenched and therefore less than spotless corporations: oil majors, out-of-town shopping groups, drink and tobacco companies. Please remember, Mrs Beckett, these are the backbone of pension funds, unit trusts and small investors' portfolios, not the few holding the many to ransom.

Just as important, please promote the interests of small investors, who fall foul of security industry economics and lose their voice and most of their rights in the process. Being the many, small investors need megaphones rather than muzzles so that they can pursue the interests of the many — perennially loyal, sometimes ethical, often long-term and very often green — in the great private sector organisations Labour no longer seeks to own itself.

10 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY
ATTENTION ALLIANCE & LEICESTER SAVERS
FREE SHARES?
FOR TAX FREE PROFITS, PHONE FREE
THE NO-COST WINDFALL PEP

If you are in line for free conversion shares, either right away from Alliance & Leicester or later in the year from one of the other building societies, you have a number of options open to you. One of these, of course, is to keep the shares.

THE NO-COST WINDFALL PEP

But then what's the best thing to do with them? To avoid paying tax on the returns you could put them inside a Personal Equity Plan (PEP) within 42 days of receiving them.

You could do this with your building society. But, if you've been checking out the financial pages in the newspapers, you may well have been advised to choose a PEP specialist with genuine expertise and proven performance. Someone like Fidelity.

With £330 billion of funds under management, we are the world's biggest fund manager, three times the size of Britain's biggest building society.

No wonder we can offer you top quality products like our No-Cost Windfall PEP*. Our PEP gives you maximum flexibility and value for money.

You can keep your shares as they are or, if you prefer, you can switch them free of charge into any of Fidelity's top performing unit trusts. That includes our MoneyBuilder PEP funds: the best value range on the market.

Feel free to find out more about our No-Cost Windfall PEP. Pick up the phone, send off the coupon or speak to your IFA.

To: Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Phone 0800 41 41 71. Please send me information on Fidelity's No-Cost Windfall PEP. We will not disclose any information outside the Fidelity Marketing Group.

Name____________________

Address____________________

Postcode__________ Tel__________ TMN8

0800 41 41 71

Call free 9am to 6pm. 7 days. Fax: 01737 836 980. http://www.fid-intl.com/uk

Fidelity Investments

JOIN THE WORLD'S No1

*Investors who hold no other Fidelity products by 5/4/99 will be charged £15 annually from 5/4/99. The PEP you select may carry an initial charge. Resources and assets are as at 28/2/97 and include resources of FMR Corp, a US company and affiliate. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and income from them can go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice. Fidelity Investments Ltd, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.

GUINNESS FLIGHT

VALUE BOND PEP

7.37% p.a.* No Initial & No Exit charges

Hold your Windfall shares in the Best Value Corporate Bond PEP

We hope that you have been fortunate and have received Windfall shares in the Alliance & Leicester. Guinness Flight offers you the flexibility to hold Windfall shares in the Value Bond PEP so that you may choose when to sell.

Whether or not you have Windfall shares, for a high level of income with a lower risk profile than equity investments, join the thousands of other investors who have discovered the best value corporate bond PEP – the Guinness Flight Value Bond PEP.

Call us now for details of the Value Bond PEP and the Windfall option and collect your free AUTIF Guide to Bond Fund PEPs.

- ✓ Will accommodate Building Society Windfall shares
- ✓ Aiming for high and stable tax-free income
- ✓ Yield - 7.37% p.a.†
- ✓ High Quality 'AA'* Credit Rated Portfolio
- ✓ Low Charges** • No Initial • No Exit • Only 0.65% Annual

GUINNESS FLIGHT
INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

Call 0345 564 564 - quoting ref 3464
lines open 24 hrs

FREE AUTIF GUIDE TO BOND PEPS
This independent paper gives you all the information you need on Bond Fund PEPs.

or simply complete the coupon and return to "FREEPOST GUINNESS FLIGHT" (no stamp or further address details needed) Tel: 0345 564 564. Fax: 0171-522 3001. www.guinness-flight.co.uk/uk-index.html

Please send me details of the Value Bond PEP, the Windfall option, and the free AUTIF Guide to Bond Fund PEPs

Title Initials Surname
Address
Postcode

3464/97

*Awarded by IBCA, the leading European credit rating agency. †Estimated current redemption yield as at 9.4.97. Estimated current running yield: 7.63%. **Windfall option charges are different to Value Bond PEP charges. The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. Tax benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by IMRO.

Marianne Curphey with a buyer's guide to rental properties

From location to letting

With the most recent survey suggesting that parts of the country have seen a 5 per cent increase in house prices in the past three months, and uncertainty over how equities will perform after the election, an increasing number of people are looking to invest in bricks and mortar. The Institute of Chartered Surveyors reported last week that house price rises in London, the South East and West Midlands were driving a mini-boom.

Although the combination of low interest rates and high rental income may seem tempting for would-be landlords, there are income tax, capital gains tax and insurance implications to such a purchase.

Property is a long-term investment — it is illiquid and you may not be able to sell up quickly if you need your capital back in a hurry. On the other hand, it has historically protected owners against some of the ravages of inflation on their savings.

The first step towards being a landlord is to decide whether you are investing for rental income or capital growth.

Yolande Barnes, director of research at Savills, the estate agency, says those looking for maximum capital appreciation need to pick an area where there is strong growth in the local economy and wealth-creating industries.

She suggests Leeds, Bristol and Manchester, plus central London, but says the very top properties in these regions have already moved up in price considerably.

"However, there is still scope for the next rung down on the housing ladder," she says. "Demand for good quality detached houses and cottages is already growing. If you can be objective and buy in any area of the country, then pick regions like Glasgow, the North West, Birmingham and Manchester, where there is considerable local wealth.

"In London, look at houses around the £100,000 mark, within the M25 ring or near places like Guildford and Sevenoaks, where good quality family homes with three or four bedrooms and a garden are in demand."

She says that some properties will cover the cost of the mortgage, but will not command huge rents. However, the income will be realised when the property is sold several years later. One landlord who bought a house for an investment is Christopher Rolfe, 36, a surveyor from Lancashire, has just bought a two-bedroom house in Surrey for £75,000.

He said: "I have a house as part of my job and I was concerned that I might miss out on house price rises. I chose Surrey because I thought it would be easy to find tenants — and it was. Within two days of redecorating the house it was let."

He put down a £20,000 deposit and now pays a mortgage rate 2 per cent above the standard variable rate charged by Homeloans Direct of Solihull, which last month became a financial services provider and changed its name to Paragon Mortgages. The mortgage interest payments, including an endowment policy, are £320 a month, and he charges rent of £600.

He said: "After lettings expenses, insurance and repairs to the house I will not make much profit from the rent. However, I hope to gain from the increase in house prices. I calculate prices have risen by around 6 per cent since I bought in February." If you are looking purely for rental income, the criteria are very different. Ms Barnes says it is possible to buy cheap properties in areas where there is a high demand for rented property and which will yield the best rents.

She suggests choosing property in university towns, near other academic institutions or near a hospital.

The Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) favours newly built properties for rental investment because of the low maintenance and running costs.

A buy-to-let scheme was launched last year by Arla, backed by the Halifax Building Society, Mortgage Express, Lloyds TSB and Homeloans Direct.

Before embarking on letting a property, it is wise to note the following points:

- Letting can go wrong and tenants who default can take everything — including the central heating system — when they disappear. Eviction can be lengthy and costly.
- Arrange for an assured short-hold tenancy.
- To get a mortgage for a second property to let you will need a deposit of at least 25 per cent and the interest charged will be 0.5 per cent to 3 per cent above the lenders' standard variable rate.
- Make sure utility bills are charged to clients.
- Costs will include solicitors' fees to arrange the tenancy, advertising for tenants and the managing agent's fee — typically 10 to 15 per cent of the rent.
- Landlords who let out the whole property are not entitled to mortgage interest tax relief at source (Miras), although a number of costs, such as mortgage interest and agency fees, and the costs of being a landlord including stationery, telephone calls and redecorating, can be offset against tax.

BBC

This life's cast typify young professionals who need large rented properties

You'd never have guessed that a low risk investment could be so exciting.

Ten per cent guaranteed is exciting enough. But what really sets the pulse racing is the fact that you can also share in Stock Market growth potential - without any risk to your capital whatsoever.

The Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond is effectively two bonds in one. One part gives you a Building Society deposit account with a rate of 10% gross for one year.

The other account is linked to the performance of the Stock Market over 5 years - and the interest earned will equal the percentage increase in the FT-SE 100 Index over the period.

The point is that your capital is not at risk.

You can choose the balance between the two, providing that not more than 50% of your total investment is put in the one year account and £500 in the five year account.

There are no management charges and the minimum total investment is £500†, which must be placed in the five year bond.

The 10% Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond is a deposit account and will not qualify for any distribution under the proposed transfer of the Society's business to Bank of Ireland Group. If you are an existing shareholding member, before withdrawing or transferring funds from an existing share class of account, please refer to the "Answers to your Questions" leaflet which you have been sent in relation to the proposed transfer to Bank of Ireland Group. Alternatively you may phone the information office on 0800 886633.

BRISTOL & WEST

BRISTOL & WEST BUILDING SOCIETY

*Gross rates of interest do not take account of deductions of income tax. If you are eligible to receive your interest without deduction of tax you should register on Inland Revenue form R85 which is available in all the Society's branches. Interest is credited or paid out at period(s) in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the account. †Investors in the Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond do not have access to the dividends generated by the FT-SE 100 companies. Withdrawals of capital from the five year bond are not permitted. Bristol & West Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme, and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice. Bristol & West Building Society, PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS99 7AX.

THE BRISTOL & WEST
BALANCED GUARANTEED
EQUITY BOND
10%
GROSS PA*

FIXED FOR 1 YEAR
ON UP TO
HALF YOUR INVESTMENT

For an Application Pack, call in at your local Bristol & West branch or
PHONE FREE 0800 20 21 21
24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. QUOTE REF: [illegible]

To open your account by post please complete this coupon and enclose it with your personal* cheque made payable to "Bristol & West Building Society" followed by your name(s) and crossed "account payee" and confirmation of identity in the form of a current Council Tax demand or an original bank statement or utility bill (which is less than three months old and confirms your address), which we will return to you.

PLEASE NOTE: You will earn interest from the day following receipt of your cheque. However we will send you an account application form when acknowledging your cheque, which must be completed and returned before your account can be accepted.

☐ I/we would like to open a 10% Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond and enclose a cheque for £.......... (min. balance £500).
☐ I/we would like to invest £.......... in the one year bond (min. of £1 and a max. of up to 50% of your investment) and £.......... in the five year bond.
☐ Please send me further information on the Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond.

NAME (INCL. TITLE):
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:
TELEPHONE (HOME/WORK):

Please send to: 10% Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond, Bristol & West Building Society, FREEPOST ANG5317, Bedford, MK42 7BR.

"Personal cheque" means, a cheque drawn on your own personal account. Third Party cheques are not acceptable.

Tax trap for the US-born

Thousands of British residents born in America may unwittingly be building large debts in back taxes to the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Dyke Davies, an American lawyer and partner in the London office of Brown and Wood, said: "The US imposes worldwide taxation on anyone who is a citizen or who holds a green card, regardless of where they live and where their money is earned.

"In practice, most people who fall down on this obligation are green card holders who go abroad for a few years and are not informed at their local tax-return preparation shop that they should also be filing returns for the IRS. Then there are those US citizens who have never lived in America, but who were born there when their parents were on an extended holiday."

Traditionally, the IRS has been merciful to unwitting offenders and, once they have come forward, asked them to file returns only for the three previous years. But the impression of tax specialists in London is that the IRS will no longer accept ignorance of the law as an excuse not to file.

Tom Buchanan, 29, was born in Richmond, Virginia, and his British parents obtained a US passport for him when they were returning to England. At 19 he renewed his US passport without being told of any tax liabilities. Only when he was transferred recently to the New York office of his London-based public relations company, did his accountant discover that he should have been submitting returns to the IRS since he started work. But because he earned less than $70,000 a year, Buchanan was eligible to apply for an exclusion. The exercise still cost him £3,000 in fees.

It is not clear how closely the computer systems of the IRS and the US immigration authorities are linked. But the notion of British residents being grilled at US passport control over non-filing of tax returns is not too far-fetched.

Stan Beesley, IRS representative in London, emphasised that most offenders earning less than $70,000 per year would not be taxed twice. But legally they have to file to be eligible to claim exclusion.

☐ *IRS, 24 Grosvenor Square, London; 0171-408-8076/77.*

LOIS LETTS

Foreign & Colonial invented the investment trust in 1868 "to give the investor of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalists".

Come rain, come shine.

£1,000 invested in January 1977.

	Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust PLC	Higher Rate Building Society Account
1977	£1,000	£1,000
1987	£8,795	£2,353
1992	£14,927	£3,681
1997	£28,354	£4,682

Whichever way the market is heading, our investors have a history of enjoying strong, long-term performance.

The Foreign & Colonial Private Investor Plan allows you to invest in the stockmarkets of the world at low cost. Over the last decade, while the real value of your money has fallen by over a third, £1,000 invested in Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust would have tripled.

Why not find out more and enjoy the benefits of *Foreign & Colonial* whatever the climate.

Phone 01734 828 802 or Fax 01734 344 622 any time quoting the coupon code, or return the coupon.

Foreign & Colonial

To: Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, PO Box 2, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9NW.
Name
Address
Town County
Postcode Code P26497T

The value of your shares and income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. All figures to 1 January, sourced Micropal. Investment trust figures basis: mid market prices, net income reinvested, incl. historical 3.5% notional expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission and 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty). Building Society figures basis: highest net rate available from Micropal (£25,000+ Account) based on total return, net income reinvested. Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the investment trusts.

هكذا من الاعلى

Performance left wanting at M&G

At the height of the Morgan Grenfell scandal, M&G feared that it would suffer by association, the two groups' initials being identical. Some anxiety was expressed that, for the uninitiated, only an ampersand separated the upstanding, utterly British Municipal and General from the louche goings on at German-owned Morgan Grenfell.

As Morgan Grenfell begins to compensate its wronged investors (see page 40) it is now clear that M&G has its own problems. Nothing to do with fraud, but with a misguided attachment to an investment strategy.

In the selection of shares for its funds, M&G has pursued "value" (see page 34). However, this policy has reduced the net worth of many of its clients. So poor has been the performance of many M&G trusts that some firms of independent financial advisers are now boycotting the group. Shamed at last into action, M&G is now reshaping its trusts and will dispose of disappointing holdings.

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

But this long overdue reaction leaves several questions unanswered. Why did M&G launch a new fund, in March, instead of concentrating on improving its existing funds? Why did M&G continue to pursue the value strategy when this was clearly not in the interests of customers? How will it ensure that it achieves the best possible price for the large stakes it now means to sell? Will M&G once more hire Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, to front the advertising campaign giving the answers?

Mutual friends

DETERMINEDLY mutual building societies claim that they will put customers first. The Halifax and the other converting societies make exactly the same promise. Potential borrowers, unconvinced by the claims of either side, will be interested in the 1996 mortgage cost survey (see page 29). The annual £50,000 loan repayment was the lowest at Yorkshire, Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley, all mutuality fans. But Cheltenham & Gloucester, a division of Lloyds, was also highly competitive. Meanwhile, West Bromwich and Birmingham Midshires, two more mutuality enthusiasts, were among the most expensive. The case for mutuality remains unproven.

Pension tension

FOUR out of ten working adults have no pension provision. Meanwhile, pension companies row over whose plan has the lowest cost (see page 40). The investment watchdogs should now set out clear guidelines on comparing charges that the novice can understand. Otherwise, pensions will continue to be too complicated for millions, leaving them condemned to poverty in old age.

Conal Gregory on the rising market in political memorabilia

Election winners

As the election reaches its finale, some may be growing heartily sick of the faces of politicians. Others realise that images of those in government or aspiring to office can be tomorrow's antiques. The trade reports a rising market for political memorabilia, with the unusual and original most in demand. Sadly for Tony Blair and John Major, however, it is Baroness Thatcher items that are most popular.

Already a Baroness Thatcher teapot designed by the *Spitting Image* caricaturists Fluck and Law has jumped from £50-£80 two years ago to £200 plus today.

Collectors consider that the first election article was probably a stoneware jug, embossed *TB 1705* with the arms of the City of Norwich. This was probably a reference to Thomas Blofield, who stood unsuccessfully at the hustings that year. A 1724 Delftware punch bowl, now in the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge, has inscribed in its cover: "To the MP for Liverpool, Thomas Bootle."

Political plates and mugs from the 18th century are keenly sought. The Worcester ceramics factory, later to become Royal Worcester, commemorated Robert Tracy's victory in 1747 with a mug. The five-day election was notably corrupt and, although Mr Tracy was bottom in the poll, he was vindicated when he petitioned Parliament. Mugs, printed in black, from the 1760s — depicting Pitt the Elder — sell for £1,700-£2,000.

A pink lustre mug from the 1826 Northumberland election at Alnwick was £150 a decade ago. It shows one or more of the candidates. Today, you can expect to pay £500 according to Andrew Hilton, of Special Auction Services, based in Midgham Park, near Reading who holds regular sales of political memorabilia.

Fell plates depicting Charles James Fox, the Whig politician and noted orator are popular. Ten years ago a good example made £100, which has doubled today. Stoneware spirit flasks can be found depicting the leading parliamentary figures of the 1832 Reform Bill. Charles Grey makes £300, and Daniel O'Connell £400.

Engraved glassware can occasionally be found. Presumably as an electoral bribe, one of the Reading candidates had "Success to Sir Francis Knollys 1761" inscribed on to a goblet with ogee bowl and conical foot. He was elected but never spoke in Parliament. The glass makes £2,000 plus.

Jeanette Hayhurst, a London glass dealer, recently sold a facet-stem glass commemorating John Wilkes, the 18th century libertarian MP. It showed an engraved bird flying out of a cage, referring to Mr Wilkes's expulsion from the Commons, and the phrase "Wilkes & Liberty" on the reverse. It had risen from £900-£1,000 in 1992 to £1,500. Disraeli and Gladstone appeared in many guises. Octagonal plates printed by Wallis Gimson at £30-£40 each in 1986 now fetch £60-£90.

One of the most abusive examples is the chamber pot from Belleek, a china factory in Northern Ireland, which has a portrait of Gladstone printed in black on the inside, designed because Gladstone championed Irish Home Rule. Phillips sold one two years ago at £276. Many such articles are recorded by Sir Lincoln Hallinan in his well-illustrated *British Commemoratives* (Antique Collectors' Club, £29.95).

Lloyd George can be found as a tumbling figure — a wind up clock work toy — symbolising his political somersaulting. In good condition such a piece has risen from £50-£75 in 1987 to £200 now.

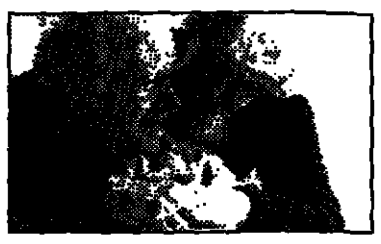
Churchill material is far more popular. A signed photograph of him made £420 plus buyer's premium a year ago at Christie's South Kensington. Signed political photographs are offered by Politico's, Britain's first bookshop specialising in political memorabilia. It quotes £55 for Helmut Kohl, £59 Kissinger, £95 Gerald Ford and Oliver North, £119 Wilson, and £495 for Reagan.

Thatcher commemoratives are tipped by Politico's managing director Iain Dale. He offers the Royal Doulton 3½ inch plate of Margaret Thatcher for £35. Other Royal Doulton material includes toby jugs of Kennedy, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Washington — each at £60.

Memorabilia from this election will also attract high prices in future, he said. "Posters such as the one portraying Tony Blair on Chancellor Kohl's knee will be very marketable, and anything to do with Martin Bell should be worth keeping. The parties' manifestos will be like gold dust in a few years. The post-election *Times Guide to the House of Commons* is already in demand, and political mugs, beer bottles and badges will all be very collectable."

PHILLIPS

Inflation beater: A Fluck and Law Baroness Thatcher teapot fetches £200 plus today



A service designed to help meet the care needs of older people

Do you need extra help at home to make everyday living a little easier? Perhaps you need the extra care of a residential home?

Paying for care can easily see your lifetime's savings eaten up, leaving very little money for the future or to provide an inheritance.

Help the Aged Long Term Independence Planning can help you make an informed choice about how you can best provide for your care needs.

A personalised report will be prepared for you, with options on how to meet the cost of your care, your entitlement to local authority support and welfare benefits plus any legal and tax issues. The service is **totally confidential** and there is **no obligation** to follow the advice.

Your report and all advice is totally free of charge.

To find out how **Help the Aged Long Term Independence Planning** can help meet your care needs, just call us on **FREEPHONE 0500 76 74 76** or complete and return (no stamp required) the coupon below to:
Help the Aged Long Term Independence Planning, FREEPOST,
Old Bank House, 95 London Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 9AE

Help the Aged Long Term Independence Planning is provided through the Nursing Homes Fees Agency and their parent company SB Lee Clark who are regulated for investment business by the Personal Investment Authority, PIA Reg No 5943. Help the Aged will receive a donated commission on all business conducted through the service. Help the Aged is a Registered Charity number [illegible]

Help the Aged
Long Term
Independence
Planning

FREEPHONE

0500 76 74 76

Please quote RefTM

Lines are open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

For your FREE INFORMATION PACK complete & return to:
Help the Aged Long Term Independence Planning, FREEPOST,
Old Bank House, 95 London Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 9AE

What advice do you require? (please tick appropriate box ☑*)*
To meet immediate care costs ☐
To plan for future care needs ☐

Full Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms): ____________
Address: ____________
____
____________ Post Code ____________
Tel No ____________

The details you provide may be used to send you information about other Help the Aged trading services. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive such information ☐

RefTM

Beware the charges of the light fingered brigade.

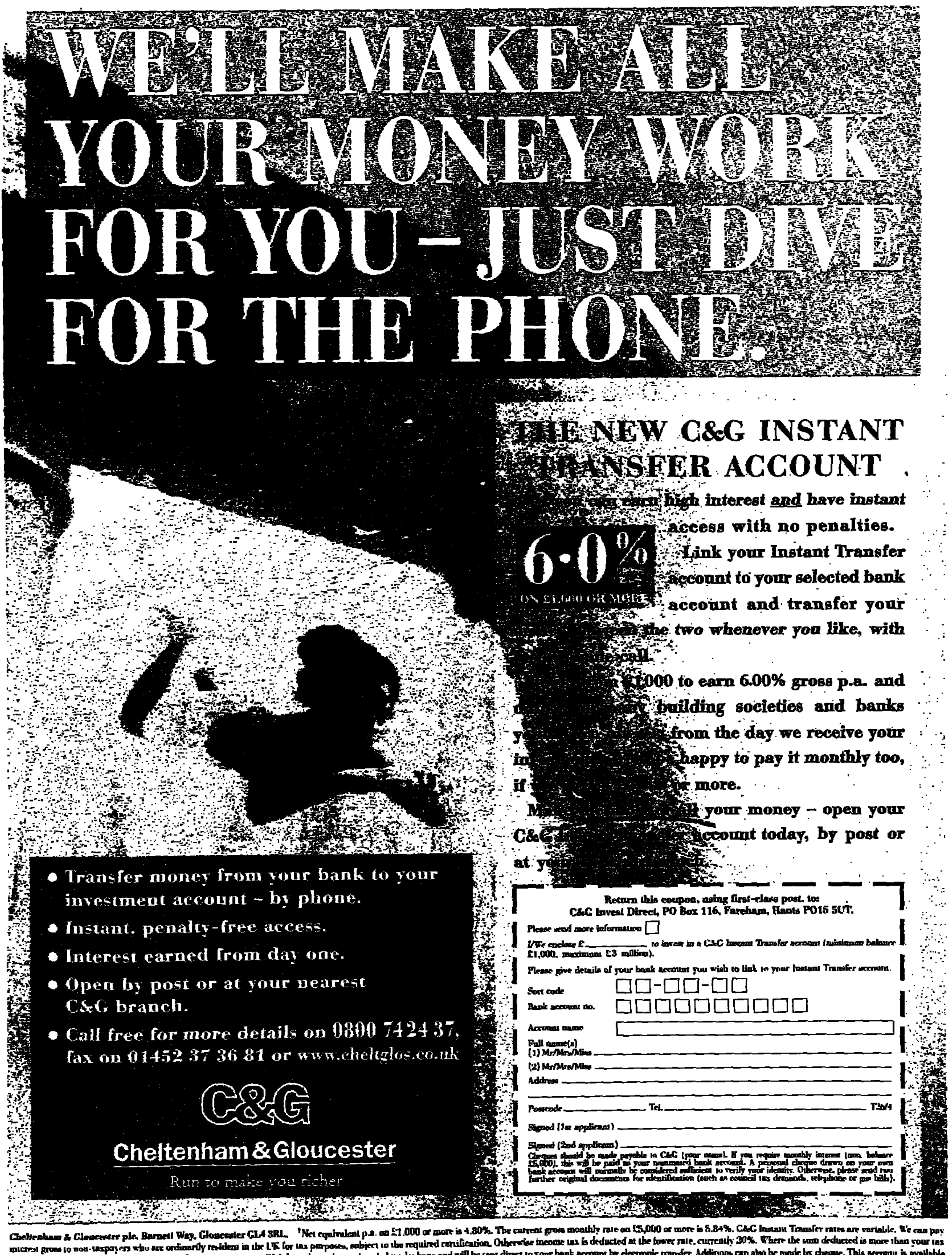
Watch out for PEP companies whose high charges could eat up the tax gift meant for you. Our charges are amongst the lowest you can find. Call us now for an information pack.

Virgin direct
personal financial service

0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Services Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. For the Growth PEP minimum investment £50 a month or £1,000 lump sum. For the Income PEP £6,000 lump sum only. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefit depends on how much tax you pay. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.



WE'LL MAKE ALL YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU – JUST DIVE FOR THE PHONE.

THE NEW C&G INSTANT TRANSFER ACCOUNT

[illegible] high interest and have instant access with no penalties.

6·0%
ON £1,000 OR MORE

Link your Instant Transfer account to your selected bank account and transfer your [illegible] the two whenever you like, with [illegible] call.

[illegible] £1,000 to earn 6.00% gross p.a. and [illegible] building societies and banks [illegible] from the day we receive your [illegible] happy to pay it monthly too, if [illegible] or more.

M[illegible] your money – open your C&G [illegible] account today, by post or at y[illegible]

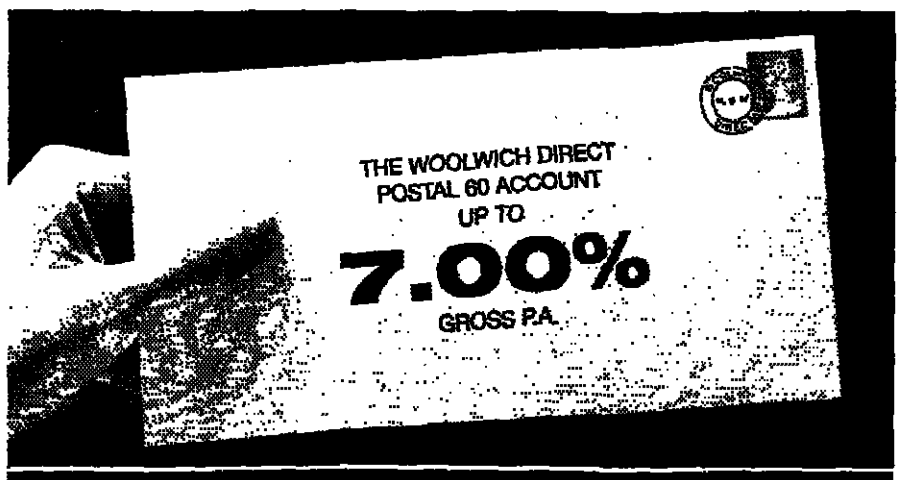
- Transfer money from your bank to your investment account – by phone.
- Instant, penalty-free access.
- Interest earned from day one.
- Open by post or at your nearest C&G branch.
- Call free for more details on 0800 742 437, fax on 01452 37 36 81 or www.cheltglos.co.uk

C&G
Cheltenham & Gloucester
Run to make you richer

Return this coupon, using first-class post, to:
C&G Invest Direct, PO Box 116, Fareham, Hants PO15 5UT.

Please send more information ☐
I/We enclose £________ to invest in a C&G Instant Transfer account (minimum balance £1,000, maximum £3 million).
Please give details of your bank account you wish to link to your Instant Transfer account.
Sort code ☐☐-☐☐-☐☐
Bank account no. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Account name ____________
Full name(s)
(1) Mr/Mrs/Miss ____________
(2) Mr/Mrs/Miss ____________
Address ____________
____
Postcode ________ Tel. ________ T26/4
Signed (1st applicant) ____________
Signed (2nd applicant) ____________
Cheques should be made payable to C&G (your name). If you require monthly interest (min. balance £5,000), this will be paid to your nominated bank account. A personal cheque drawn on your own bank account will normally be considered sufficient to verify your identity. Otherwise, please send two further original documents for identification (such as council tax demands, telephone or gas bills).

Cheltenham & Gloucester plc, Barnett Way, Gloucester GL4 3RL. ¹Net equivalent p.a. on £1,000 or more is 4.80%. The current gross monthly rate on £5,000 or more is 5.84%. C&G Instant Transfer rates are variable. We can pay interest gross to non-taxpayers who are ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes, subject to the required certification. Otherwise income tax is deducted at the lower rate, currently 20%. Where the sum deducted is more than your tax liability you can apply to the Inland Revenue for a tax repayment. Withdrawals can be made only by telephone and will be sent direct to your bank account by electronic transfer. Additions can also be made by cheque. This account is available only for individual or joint investors aged 18 years or over. C&G Instant Transfer account is operated through our C&G Invest Direct service. To help us maintain our service standards, we may record or monitor telephone calls.



RETURN TO SENDER

	GROSS PAID ANNUALLY*
£100,000+	7.00%
£50,000 - £99,999	6.65%
£25,000 - £49,999	6.40%
£10,000 - £24,999	6.15%
£5,000 - £9,999	5.90%
£2,500 - £4,999	5.40%

Introducing the Postal 60 Account from Woolwich Direct. The highest quality of service because it's the Woolwich.

Straightforward and convenient because it's direct, to your door.

Operating your account by post means we can offer you higher rates on a minimum investment of £2,500. What's more, you can make one no-penalty, instant withdrawal a year.

For a higher interest rate from the Woolwich, direct to your door, call us free now quoting ref: TP264.

Get much more with

WOOLWICH
DIRECT
0800 60 60 40

For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded. 8.30am - 9.00pm MON - FRI, 9.00am - 3.00pm SAT; 10.00am - 2.00pm SUN. e-mail address: woolwich-direct@e-mail.com

Gross rates for monthly income £2,500+ 5.27%, £5,000+ 5.76%, £10,000+ 5.98%, £25,000+ 6.22%, £50,000+ 6.46%, £100,000+ 6.78%. Balances below £2,500 earn interest at 1.00% gross

*Interest will be payable net of the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic tax bands the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Interest will be calculated daily, from the fourth bank working day after receipt of a deposit by cheque. Cash deposits will not be accepted. Proof of identity will be required. The first withdrawal made in each calendar year of up to £10,000 may be made without notice or penalty. Further withdrawals may be made immediately subject to the loss of 60 days interest. The account can be closed without penalty by giving 60 clear days' written notice. If a withdrawal is made where you incur a penalty you will not achieve the staged interest rate. Interest rates are subject to variation. The minimum investment is £2,500. Full terms and conditions available on request. Woolwich Building Society, Corporate HO, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. P4D7

Caroline Merrell on a fund manager's search for better value

Front man: Lord Lawson of Blaby, who starred in the series of television advertisements for M&G Peps that failed to bring in the business

M&G gears up for radical changes

M&G, one of the UK's oldest and best known management companies, is taking radical steps to try to improve the investment performance on its UK funds.

As revealed this week by *The Times*, the fund manager — which has more than 700,000 client accounts and £16 billion under management — is planning a shift in its investment strategy. The move is to counteract increasingly severe criticism from independent financial advisers, which are the source of half of its new business.

The change in emphasis follows a million-pound television advertising campaign for M&G Peps fronted by Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was significantly unsuccessful, attracting just £20 million for a new fund, one tenth of the average amount drawn in by previous M&G fund launches.

The change in the company's stance comes at the end of a year in which the fund manager's executives can begin to cash in share options, which could be worth more than £40 million in total over ten years.

Vivian Bazalgette, managing director of M&G investment management, said that it had reviewed all 280 stocks held by M&G in its funds to see whether they fitted ten different investment criteria. He said that the company was planning to dispose of a number of holdings that did not meet the criteria. He refused to be drawn on which shares it planned to sell. He also said: "We are looking at the possibility of rationalising some of the funds by merging them together."

Until recently M&G funds were considered to be a safe haven for investors' money. As one financial adviser put it, the performance of the funds, while not likely "to shoot the lights out" was also not likely to disappoint too much.

Over the past few years, however, the performance of some of M&G's most popular funds has slipped to the point that many of the UK's biggest independent financial advisers have simply stopped recommending any of the company's trusts.

Some are even threatening to remove their clients' money altogether. For example, M&G's Midland & General fund is the worst-performing fund in its sector over three years, while its Recovery fund is 125th out of 135 funds in its sector over three years. The company claims that its more recent performance had improved and that some of its funds were the top of its sector (see table). In the first three months of the year, traditionally the busiest time for the investment companies, M&G took only £150 million into its personal equity plans (Peps), half the amount taken over the same period in the previous year. The amount taken was in spite of the £9 million spent annually on advertising.

Graham Hooper, investment director of Chase de Vere, the independent financial adviser, was particularly disappointed at M&G's decision to launch an investment trust this year. He said: "With nearly all investment trusts trading at a discount to asset value, it is difficult to see why they launched this." If an investment trust falls to a discount, then shareholders can only sell shares at a price that is less than their true value.

He and others also accused the company of being too complacent as it did not respond to its problems with enough speed. Michael McLintock, M&G's group managing director, admitted that in the past the company's investment style had been too rigid. Many of its funds are dominated by manufacturing stocks, which meant that at certain times in the economic cycle, all their funds underperformed substantially. He said: "Too many of our funds are much too similar."

M&G concentrates on using the "value" method of picking stocks. This means that higher yielding shares are chosen over growth stocks. Over the last year in particular the higher income-bearing stocks have underperformed those shares geared up for growth.

Mr McLintock claims that M&G is not going to move away from its traditional "value" approach to fund management but says that it is going to have a more "disciplined" approach. "There is going to be bigger differences between funds and with a greater choice of risk," he says.

Peter Jeffries, director of Fund Research, which analyses fund managers, said: "There is nothing wrong with the value approach. What appears to have gone wrong at M&G is that during periods of a value-driven market their portfolios have all looked the same. All their growth portfolios had to produce a dividend, while all their income portfolios had to produce some growth. There was too much overlap."

He added: "As long as they can build on the quality management, things could get better."

Despite the problems faced by the M&G its share price has rocketed ahead. It is now trading on 20 times earning. It, along, with many other fund managers are the subject of bid speculation.

Those with shares in M&G have fared much better than many those who bought its products.

PERFORMANCE OF M&G TRUSTS OVER FIVE YEARS

INITIAL £100 LUMP SUM INVESTMENT

	1.4.96	Rank*	1.4.94	Rank*	1.4.92	Rank*
M & G Smaller Companies	£ 91.48	76	£ 97.24	67	£ 159.96	56
M & G General	£ 107.89	111	£ 129.89	85	£ 192.42	43
M & G Trustee	£ 107.86	112	£ 117.01	118	£ 194.27	70
M & G Second General	£ 101.42	142	£ 115.62	120	£ 194.23	36
M & G Midland & General	£ 96.46	147	£ 96.98	125	£ 164.24	106
M & G Corporate Bond	£ 113.69	3	N/A	—	N/A	—
M & G Gilt & Fixed Interest	£ 112.26	5	£ 119.06	4	£ 142.45	24
M & G Extra Yield	£ 109.40	56	£ 127.64	47	£ 202.35	25
M & G High Income	£ 108.86	63	£ 132.62	28	£ 218.14	12
M & G Dividend	£ 103.69	89	£ 123.78	63	£ 200.74	28
M & G Equity Income	£ 100.70	92	£ 109.25	82	£ 193.43	41
M & G Compound Growth	£ 108.03	101	£ 131.72	84	£ 195.72	51
M & G Capital	£ 103.07	147	£ 127.52	96	£ 223.02	20
M & G Recovery	£ 99.04	154	£ 119.31	125	£ 196.88	49
M & G Managed Income	£ 105.63	14	£ 120.29	15	N/A	—
M & G Managed Growth	£ 100.43	46	N/A	—	N/A	—

Source: Micropal *Rank in individual sector

DON'T OVERTAX YOURSELF. INVEST IN YOUR PEP MONTHLY.

Schroders

You work hard enough as it is, so isn't it time you let your spare income work hard for you?

Invest in a Schroder PEP regular investment plan, with a monthly Direct Debit. Then you could join the thousands of investors who have profited from our award-winning track record of consistent, high performance.

You can relax in the knowledge that your capital won't be tied up. We'll alter or suspend your monthly investments as you wish. We'll also arrange withdrawals of cash or switch your investment to another fund on your instruction. And at the start of the next tax year, if you want to continue investing, we'll even automatically open a new PEP for you.

All you have to do is pick up the phone, or a pair of scissors. And you'll never need to open another PEP again.

Strenuous, isn't it?

0800 002 000
Quoting ref 380

TO: SCHRODERS,
CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT,
02380 FREEPOST, LON 7109,
LONDON EC4B 4PD.

Please send me my free copy of the Schroder 1997/98 PEP brochure, including information on regular investment.

Name
Address
Postcode

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation may change. Tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value depends on the circumstances of the individual investor.

Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EJ. Regulated by IMRO. On the internet as www.schroders.com

New UK Tracker PEP

Call now for tax-free growth

No initial charge, no exit charge*

Low annual charge of only 1%

High growth potential

Call Direct 0800 85 45 81
Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm.
Weekends 9am to 6pm (excluding bank holidays).

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Initial
Surname
Address
Postcode
Day Tel. no. (inc. STD code)

Please tick if you have a NatWest account ○
Post to: NatWest, FREEPOST, 4 Eastcheap, LONDON EC3B 3JL

30633

NatWest
More than just a bank

Unlike money in a bank or building society account, which is relatively secure, the value of your capital, and the income from it, may fluctuate up and down, and you may not recover the amount of your original investment. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Unit Trusts should be regarded as a medium to long-term investment. We recommend a minimum of 5 years. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation can change. Any tax reliefs referred to are those currently available, and their availability and value will depend on your individual circumstances. The FT-SE growth rate mentioned is from 31 December 1991 – 31 December 1996 with net income reinvested (Source: Hindsight). National Westminster Bank Plc and Ulster Bank Limited are members of the NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group, and can advise on the life assurance, pensions and unit trust products only of that Marketing Group. National Westminster Bank Plc and Ulster Bank Limited are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. The Plan Manager of the NatWest Unit Trust PEP is National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Issued by National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered in England No 929027, Registered Office: 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Calls with NatWest may be monitored/recorded to maintain and improve our service.

Service pension rules add to widow's distress

BARRY GREENWOOD

Pension plight: Jane Burrows with her son, Mark, and a portrait of her late husband, Stephen

Jenny Grove on the rising tide of discontent over unequal treatment of retired Armed Forces personnel

A Weekend Money report on the plight of Armed Forces widows' receiving meagre pensions has brought a large response both from the women affected by the rules and from military and naval men. All added their voices to the rising tide of discontent over the treatment of these widows, especially those whose husbands left the services before 1973. There is particular concern that widows have their pensions taken away if they remarry, even though their deceased husband's salaries were reduced to provide pensions for dependants.

Jane Burrows, 32 whose husband was killed by a terrorist bomb seven years ago, said that pension rules not only penalised her for wanting a "normal" family life but could cause hardship. She was refused a loan on the grounds that her war widow's pension was not paid for life.

Her husband, Lance Corporal Stephen Burrows, was killed by a 2,000lb IRA bomb at an Army checkpoint in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in October 1990. Mrs Burrows was moved immediately to an army camp in England but was warned that within six months she must find her own accommodation.

"I didn't know a soul. The camp was three miles from the city centre so I tried to buy a car but the finance company turned me down on the grounds that my pension was not paid for life. If my father hadn't stood as guarantor I wouldn't have been able to buy it," Mrs Burrows said.

As highlighted recently in *Coronation Street*, a war widow forfeits her Department of Social Security and Forces Family pensions if she remarries or lives with a man as husband and wife.

Mrs Burrows said that difficulty in getting loans and mortgages undermined a war widow's independence when she was at her most vulnerable. "I had six months in which to decide where to live, whether to rent or buy and where my son was going to go to school. I feel this adds insult to an already considerable injury. I think a war widow should keep her husband's occupational pension for life," she said.

Successive governments have resisted such pleas on the grounds that military pensions are non-contributory. But campaigners are quick to point out that when salaries are determined by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body they are "abated" — this year by 7 per cent — to reflect the value of the pension.

Sir Michael Bett, the Civil Service Commissioner and former deputy chairman of BT who carried out an independent review of the Armed Forces remuneration at the Ministry of Defence's request, recommended in 1995 that "in line with private sector practice a widow's or widower's pension should be payable for life".

But in the public sector, the ban on remarriage remains. Widows of policemen and firemen also forfeit their pension if they remarry or live with their partners.

Mrs Betty Ives, 72, is in a different predicament. Her husband, Major Desmond Ives, received an artificially depressed pension because his military career ended in 1977 during a period of government pay restraint. "He received less than those of equivalent rank and length of service who retired before him," she pointed out.

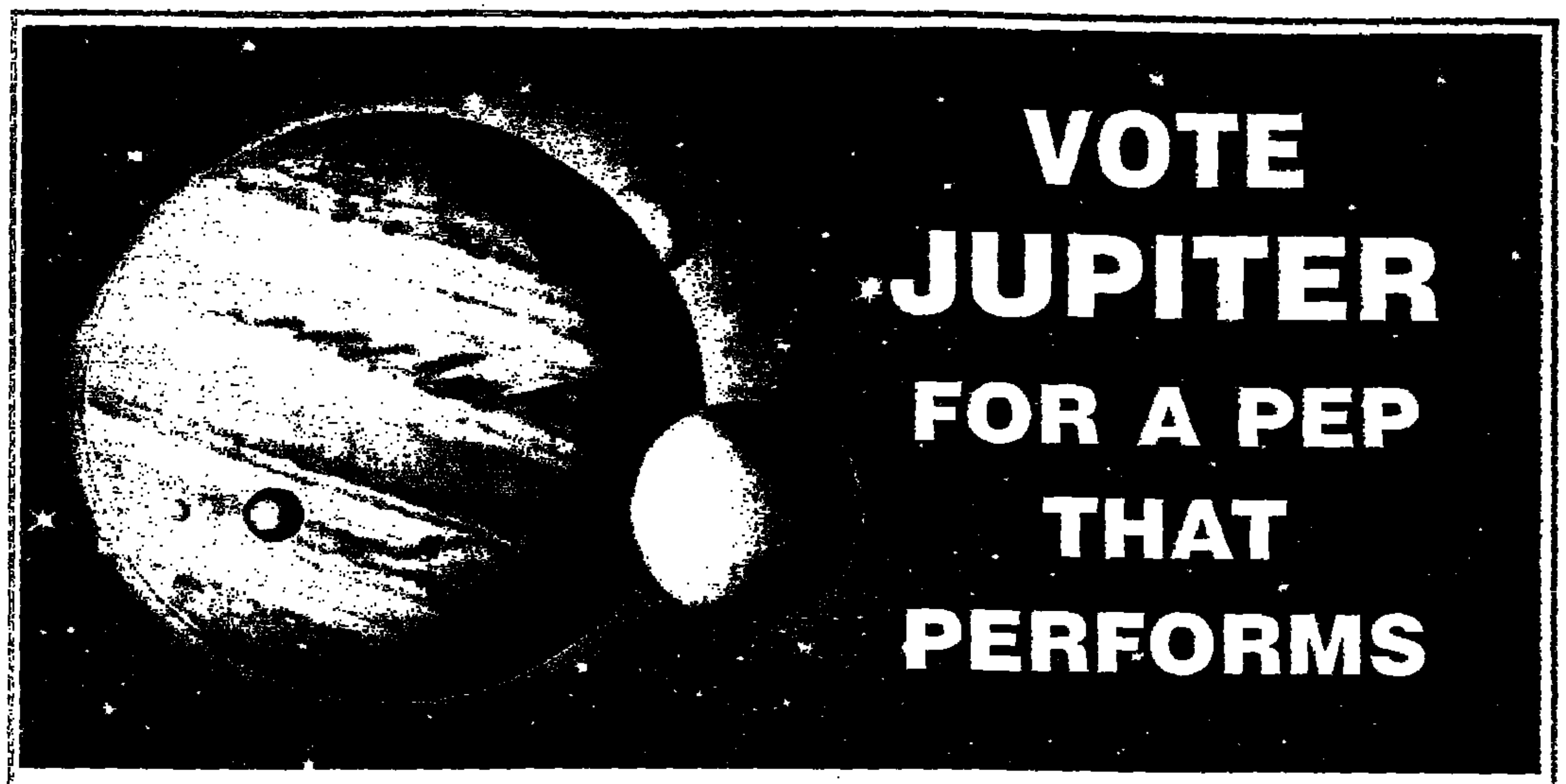
When Major Ives died 12 years ago, Mrs Ives's pension — one half of her husband's — was correspondingly reduced. "My husband was in the Army for 39 years. It is a poor reward after a lifetime's service to one's country," she said.

In 1977 about 48,000 people retired from the Forces. Those that were eligible for pensions received less than average because the government "pay freeze" had led to limited increases in military salaries. By contrast that year the pensions of those who had already retired rocketed by 17.7 per cent — in line with the retail prices index.

The effect of the so-called pension "trough" year of 1977 is compounded. A major who retired in 1977 after 34 years' service now gets a pension of just under £12,000 a year, compared with £15,900 a year for his equivalent who retired in 1975.

In total, the major who retired in 1977 has now received about £55,480 less than his more fortunate colleague.

Meanwhile, the 54,000-strong Officers' Pensions Society is fighting for reform. "Servicemen who retire in a pension trough year — such as 1977 — received exaggeratedly reduced pensions. It is grossly unfair because they have no control over the date at which their careers come to an end," Major-General Peter Bonnet, general secretary of the society, said. "The Government has ignored the long-term implications."



JUPITER INCOME TRUST
+ 240% over 5 years — 1st out of 77 sector funds ☒

JUPITER UK GROWTH FUND
+ 206% over 5 years — 1st out of 126 sector funds ☒

JUPITER EUROPEAN FUND
+ 211% over 5 years — 1st out of 109 sector funds ☒

Source: Micropal. Offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1.4.97.
Unit Trust Sectors: UK Equity Income; UK Equity Growth; European.

As you can see from the figures opposite there's good reason to give Jupiter your vote. The five year record of our three largest fully PEPable unit trusts puts the opposition in the shade – all three have beaten every other fund in their respective sectors, more than trebling investors' money over the period.

So take advantage of your PEP tax privileges early this year. Make your mark in the boxes below, call us free or talk to your financial adviser.

Jupiter PEP will accommodate Building Society Windfall shares†

JUPITER
Leaders in long-term performance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE ON 0500 0500 97

† *Building Society 'Windfall' shares will be accommodated in the Jupiter PEP. They must then be sold, and the proceeds invested into the Jupiter PEP range of funds.*

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd,
Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.

Print Name (Mr/Mrs/ Ms)............

Address............

............Post Code............Ti26.04

Mark the box for further information	☒
THE JUPITER PEP	☐
WINDFALL PEP SERVICE	☐
JUPITER UNIT TRUSTS	☐

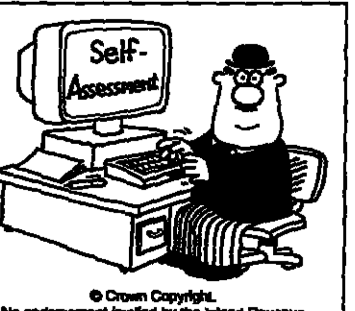
Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AUTIF. A subsidiary of Commerzbank AG, one of Germany's leading banks.
You should remember that the value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up, it may be affected by exchange rate variations, and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs may change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Up to 100% of the annual management fee is to be taken from capital of Income Trust and High Income Fund. This may accordingly restrict capital growth. Copies of the half-yearly and annual reports may be obtained from Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Scheme particulars may also be obtained from that address.

FOR FULL DETAILS OF
FINANCIAL ADVERTISING IN THE
MONEY SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 782 7115

Self Assessment
will you be paying too much?

TaxCalc is a personal taxation software package from Which? software that helps you to comply with the new Self Assessment rules. TaxCalc checks the amount you must pay the Inland Revenue, does all the calculations, and forms the basis for any tax refund. It also prints out your tax return on an Inland Revenue-approved form and even suggests ways to improve your tax position.

At just £29.99, including FREE P&P, surely this is one tax-saving device you should not be without. What's more, if your are self-employed, it's tax deductible! Phone 0990 084 201 now quoting Ref TT / April and your credit card details.

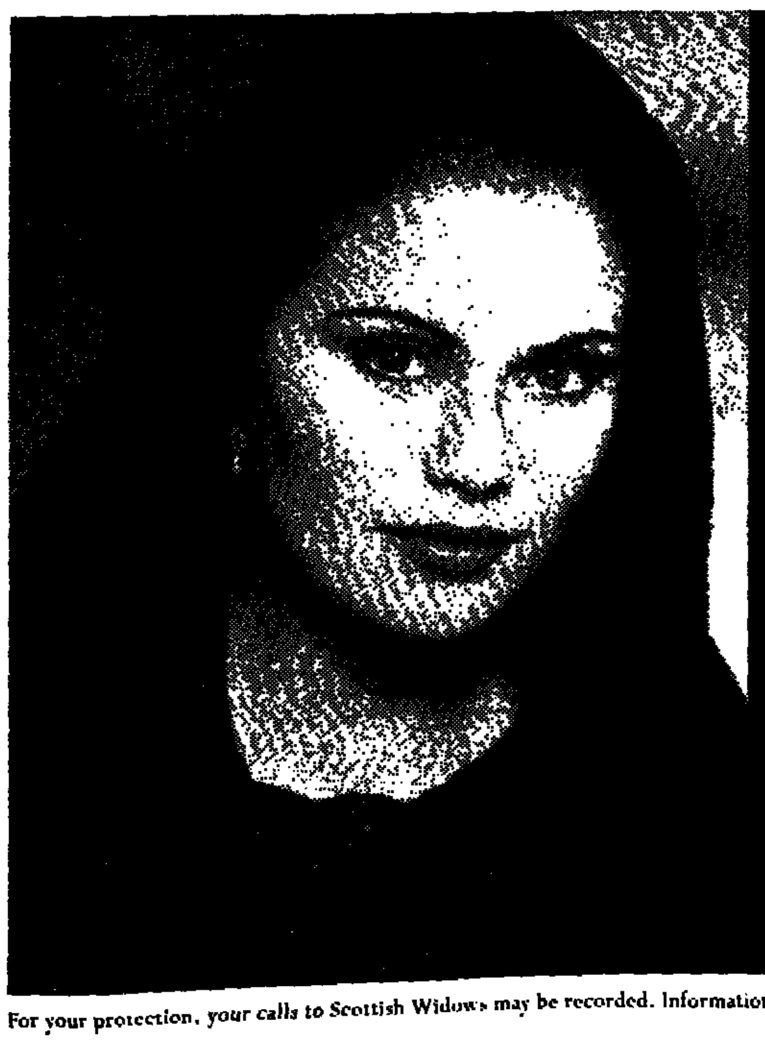


© Crown Copyright.
No endorsement implied by the Inland Revenue

WHICH? software

☎ Order Line 0990 084 201
Service available Mon-Fri 0900-2200 hrs and Sat-Sun 1000-1800 hrs
Details and sample screens on http://www.udp.co.uk

TaxCalc. The UK's leading Taxation Software package



PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE

24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

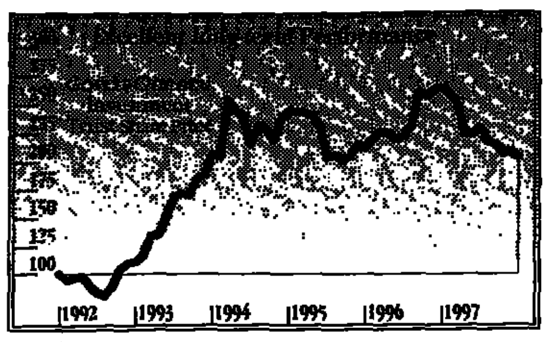
0345 6789 10
or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

£25 a month WITH GOVETT puts ASIA'S most REWARDING stockmarkets into your pocket

For as little as £25 a month or a minimum lump sum of £250 you can share in some of the most exciting investment opportunities in the world today: the dynamic stockmarkets of Asia. For many years *Govett Oriental Investment Trust* has been seeking out shares in the most promising companies and sectors. Our experts have scoured the entire region from Singapore to South Korea, from Thailand to Taiwan, from India to Indonesia. As a result of thorough investigation, research and careful buying, the value of an investment in the Trust has risen 103%* in the last five years. But perhaps the most surprising thing of all is how little it costs to benefit from this level of investment expertise. For a copy of our free brochure, return the coupon or call us free on 0500 796616. And see how we put Pacific growth well within your pocket.



Source: Micropal

PEP AND PENSION PLAN AVAILABLE

To: The Customer Services Department, John Govett & Co. Limited, Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London, SE1 2HR.
Tel: (Free) 0500 796616. Please send me details of the Govett Oriental Investment Trust Savings Plan and PEP ◇
The Govett Pension Plans ◇
Name
Address
Postcode Day Tel. No.
Information you provide may be used to inform you of other products and services available from John Govett. If you do not wish to receive such information, please tick here. ☐

Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The purchase of shares is subject to charges which can have an effect upon on the realisable value of your investment, particularly in the short term. The price of shares, and the income from them, may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. At any one time the share price may represent a discount or a premium to the net asset value. Changes in exchange rates will affect the value of Trust investments overseas. Investments in newer markets offer the possibility of higher returns but also involve a higher degree of risk. Your investment should be regarded as long term. *Share price and index, mid to mid, net income reinvested, 1.3.92 – 1.3.97. Source: Micropal. Issued by John Govett & Co. Limited (regulated by IMRO). A member of the AIB Marketing Group

GOVETT ORIENTAL
INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Lizanne Rose reports on the iniquities of windfall allocations

Let down in payout

The strong performance of Alliance & Leicester shares this week has reminded thousands of young savers that they are a poor second best in the £22 billion building society windfall bonanza. Instead of shares, investors who are under 18 receive the statutory cash bonus, regardless of how long they have saved with the society and however large their balances. Among those who feel most aggrieved are those who feel that the societies solicited their custom with cheap incentives of T-shirts and baseball caps.

The value of these bonuses is far below the average windfall now being pocketed by adult investors with as little as £100 in *their accounts. A 19-year old saver with* £100 in an Alliance & Leicester account fortunate enough to have sold his 250 Alliance & Leicester shares at this week's top price of 576p would have received £1,440. Even those who opted to sell in the auction would have been £1,334 richer (see page 37). A 17-year old Alliance & Leicester saver with the same balance would now be looking at a paltry £11.

The law is to blame for this discrimination against young savers. Those under 18 are not classified as members of societies. This means that they cannot vote at the meetings called to approve the change of status from society to bank and so may not benefit from payouts. However, individual societies are free to set the level of statutory cash bonuses and most have *erred on the side of meanness.* The low level of the statutory cash bonus has been the subject of many letters to Weekend Money from parents who feel that societies are discouraging thrift among children. *Here are the* age rules for the different society windfalls:

- ■ **Halifax** — cash bonus is 9.4 per cent of total balance on December 31, 1996. Investors had to be 18 years old by February 24, 1997, to qualify for shares.
- ■ **Alliance & Leicester** — cash bonus is 11 per cent of total balance on October 14, 1996. Investors had to be 18 by December 10, 1996, to qualify for shares.
- ■ **Woolwich** — cash bonus is 10 per cent of balance on December 31, 1996. Investors had to be 18 on February 11, 1997, to qualify for the shares.
- ■ **Northern Rock** — cash bonus is 8.8 per cent of the total balance on December 31, 1996. Age limit of 18 on April 15, 1997.

SOCIETY WATCH

Northern Rock solid over age bar for shareout

NICK RAY/SWNS

Sister act: Clare, left, and Caroline McLachlan are angry that Clare will miss the big payout

Clare McLachlan, 15, from Weston-super-Mare stands to gain only £68 while her older sister, Caroline, will receive the full share issue in the *Northern Rock flotation,* worth an estimated £1,400.

In February 1993, Clare and Caroline opened a joint account which was split into two separate accounts when Caroline turned 16 in 1995. Caroline, now 18 and studying for her A-levels, received confirmation *that she would* be given shares in the forthcoming Northern Rock conversion.

Another letter followed in the post for younger sister Clare who was informed that, despite having an account balance of £770, she would only be given a statutory cash bonus and was *disqualified* from receiving shares because of her age.

The rules outlined in the transfer document state that sole or first-named investing members must be aged 18 or over on April 15, 1997. Clare's father, Don, a computer software business manager, complained to the Northern Rock, arguing that there was absolutely no reason why minors could not have received *a more equitable* distribution and that the requirement to pay statutory cash bonuses do not of themselves restrict societies from a fairer shareout. The Northern Rock said that nothing could be done: "While I can appreciate the *disappointment,* the board of the society has concluded *that the conversion* proposals and the scheme for the distribution of free shares are in the best interests of members, employees and the society as a whole," a spokesman said.

Mr McLachlan remains unconvinced that this decision is in the best interest of the society or his daughter.

Clare still feels she has been very badly treated by the Northern Rock which, *she says,* should have made a fair provision for minors: "Why should I have less than my sister — we've both *had our money with the* society for the same period of *time."*

Northern Rock insisted that there had to be a cut-off point.

"It is inevitable that many members will be disappointed, not just children. We do sympathise and many of Northern Rock's own employees have families that are losing out. But just as *children could complain that* it is unfair that they can't *vote in the general election,* likewise it is inevitable that they will complain that they can't vote in building society matters."

ADVERTISEMENT

THE ELECTION

ALL CHANGE OR NO CHANGE?

Wesleyan – a name you can trust

Wesleyan, the name behind ProVision, is a mutual society with over 150 years experience of helping people make more of their money. Its achievements have really made the 'experts' sit up and take notice.
As winners of investment awards, you will rarely see an investment league table without Wesleyan near the top. *Wesleyan Assurance had 15 out of a possible 16 'top 10' appearances for With Profits payouts over the last four years Money Management magazine, With Profits Survey, April 1997.*

There are a number of good reasons why Wesleyan produce such impressive returns as well as attracting such impressive plaudits. Not least of these is its business philosophy – which quite simply puts its customers first.
Unlike many financial organisations, Wesleyan is totally committed to remaining a Mutual Society. This means that they don't have shareholders to take any profits. Profits are returned to Wesleyan customers – enhancing the returns they achieve from their investments.

It's proven a successful formula for everyone involved and helped secure Wesleyan a position as the second strongest life assurance society in the UK (as measured by Money Management, Financial Strength Survey, November 1996. Adjusted surplus to adjusted with profits reserves ratios).
If you would like to know more about Wesleyan and its top products, call ProVision today on 0800 22 55 88.

AWARD WINNERS 1996 micropal TOP TEN YEAR LIFE MANAGED FUND

One of the questions most asked by voters at a general election is "how will the result affect me financially and what actions should I be taking?".

In 1997 the need for advice and information is more important than ever. The reason for this is that both of the main political parties are *committed to bringing Britain's* Welfare bill under control. They realise the best way to achieve this is to persuade you to protect your own financial future, with a variety of insurance and investment schemes.
If we look at the most publicised welfare benefit - the state pension - it is clear that its value has fallen in recent years. This is because the state pension is linked to the Retail Price Index and not average earnings - which over time have outstripped the rise in prices. This pattern of gradual erosion of value over time is true for other state provided benefits - invalidity, care in old age, and so on - and it is a trend that is unlikely to be reversed.
The fact is, the world has changed. As well as reductions in the welfare state, *gone are the days when* people worked for the same company throughout their working lives, retiring on a tidy company *pension to supplement their state* pension, and covered by generous employer provisions for ill-health or death in service.

NEW SOLUTIONS FOR A NEW ERA

Most people agree that we need to save for our own retirement. Compulsory pension schemes for people starting to work, for the first time, may well soon become a reality. But what will happen if you've been working for years already?
These days a "job for life" is a thing *of the past. Short-term* work contracts and flexible working practices have put paid to real job security. Many people in their late 40s and early 50s are being forced into early retirement or having to accept lower paid employment.
This, combined with an ever ageing population has caused what some analysts are *calling a 'crisis in capitalism'* – where the state cannot *keep the promises it has made in the past.*

THE NEED FOR PERSONAL PROVISION

As State and employer provision changes, there are an increasing number of areas where the need to provide for yourself financially is paramount. For example, if you were to die, the state is unlikely to provide enough for your family to live on. One adult and two children would currently receive a total of £38.79 per week before any income support, against the average family income of £406.
An incapacitating illness or injury can also mean financial hardship. At the moment you would only get £46.15 *a week as state benefit. Of course,* it's easy to imagine that it couldn't *be you. The fact is, one person in* six, in the UK, will develop a life-*threatening illness* at some point in their working lives.
Around 30% of all people will require some form of long-term care *before they die. Most of these* individuals will be forced to sell their homes to fund their care costs. This can't be right after a lifetime's hard work. Personal insurance schemes are now available in the UK to meet these long-term care costs, but only around 17,000 policies have been sold.
If all of this sounds rather depressing, it doesn't have to be. There is a lot *of good news too. The cost of many* basic health and life insurances are surprisingly low and pensions represent a very attractive way of building significant investments – totally free of tax. So sound financial planning has very clear benefits and makes sense for everybody.

A UNIQUE FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICE CALLED PROVISION

Most people acknowledge that financial planning makes sense, but too often there is a lack of trust, or confidence in an adviser's recommendations. ProVision, by contrast, is designed to provide a *unique financial planning service for* people who expect thorough professional standards. The service starts by drawing up an extensive personal plan (recommending only the investment, life assurance, pension and mortgage products of Wesleyan Financial Services Marketing Group) which is unique to you and based on your personal details. This is provided without any obligation to follow the advice given.
What makes it unique is a structure that ensures the highest professional *standards are maintained. ProVision* financial planners are paid a salary, *not commission. The bonuses they* receive are based on carefully *measured customer satisfaction* levels - not just sales. Planners go through a rigorous selection and training process to ensure they meet the highest standards.

PLAN AHEAD

Although financial planning is vitally important, it is unfortunately easily *overlooked. Protecting ourselves in* the event of unforeseen circumstances, saving for retirement or whatever other provision we know we need to make, simply takes a low priority in our busy lives.
Yet quality, professional, financial planning can help take the hard work out of it.
Initially it's down to you. All you have to do is make a single telephone call. *And, reassuringly, there will be no* hard sell.

Book your appointment now for after May 1st, to find out how the *election affects you.*

Facts everyone should know about their financial future

- At the beginning of 1997, over 43% of employees still rely solely on the state for pension support.
- The full basic state pension for a single man is £62.45 per week (providing full contributions have been made for 44 years).
- One person in six is likely to develop a life threatening illness at some point in their working lives.
- Around 30% of people will require some form of long term care before they die. The elderly are increasingly faced with selling their homes to fund nursing fees.
- Only one in nine has insurance to pay for private hospital treatment, while fewer than one in 20 has private cover to provide income if taking time off work through illness.

CALL FREE NOW ON 0800 22 55 88

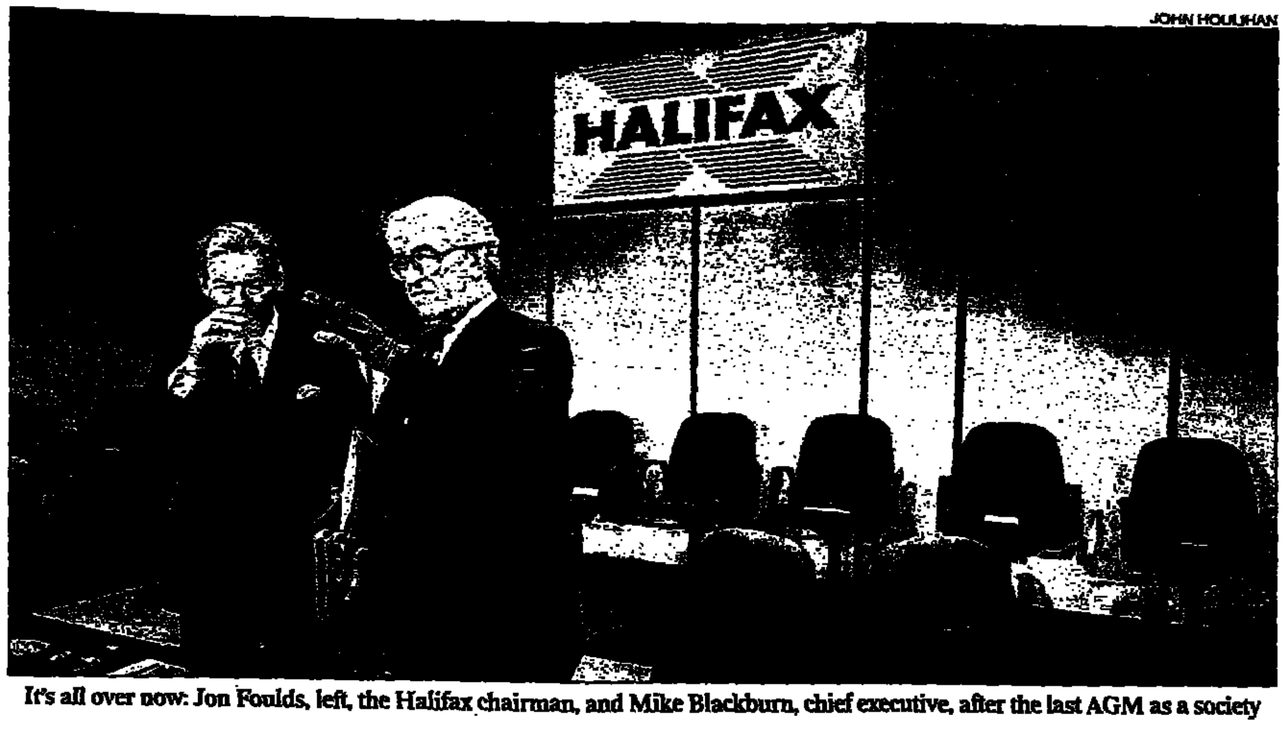
Please quote 12294 when you call.
Lines are open 8am to 9pm Monday to Thursday, 8am to 5pm Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. Request *your free information* pack now and we'll send you this top quality pen absolutely FREE – without any obligation.

Yes. Please send me a free Information Pack on financial planning for professionals with ProVision, along with my complimentary ProVision pen.
Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) Name
Address
Postcode Date of Birth
Tel (day): Tel (eve):
Post today, without a stamp, to: ProVision Financial Planning Service, FREEPOST MID00001, Narrow Plain, Bristol, BS2 0AB. Ref: 12294

PROVISION
Financial Planning for the Professional

The details you provide in response to this communication may be held by Wesleyan Financial Services on computer and may be used to keep you informed about products and services provided by us and other organisations which we think will be of interest to you. If you prefer that we do not telephone or write to you with this information, please write to us. We may call you to make sure you have been supplied with the information you require. Issued by Wesleyan Financial Services, a member of the Wesleyan *Financial Services Marketing Group. The Society is incorporated by Private Act of Parliament Registered* Number Z145. Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance. The value of units may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed.

Anne Ashworth assesses options for members


JOHN HOULIHAN

It's all over now: Jon Foulds, left, the Halifax chairman, and Mike Blackburn, chief executive, after the last AGM as a society

Halifax hopes high

SOCIETY WATCH

The stampede to acquire Alliance & Leicester shares (see below) may discourage some Halifax investors from selling their holdings at the first opportunity before the official start of dealings.

An auction of Halifax shares will be held on Friday, May 30, before trading begins in earnest on the conversion day, June 2, when the Halifax embarks on its new destiny as a bank. Millions will seize this first chance to cash in their long-awaited windfalls.

But although customers can sell commission-free for the first ten days using a special Halifax service, a few more sophisticated investors seem likely to bypass this system and request share certificates. They will then use other stockbrokers to sell their shares, in the hope of a higher price.

Whichever method is used, customers seem, at present, to be sure of a larger than expected cheque. In January the value of the average windfall (a parcel of some 307 shares) in the £12 billion Halifax flotation was calculated to be £1,290, based on an estimated mid-price of 420p. The average windfall could be at least £1,400, on the 458p price anticipated by banking analysts such as James Johnson at Credit Lyonnais Laing. Others speculate that it could rise to 553p, giving a windfall of £1,700.

However, these figures could be misleading, according to Gary Marsh, Halifax head of corporate affairs. He said 300 shares is an atypical distribution: "A more typical customer would be entitled to two basic distributions of 200 shares, one as a saver and another as a borrower." At 458p, worth £1,832.

The basic distribution is given to those qualifying savers who have less than £1,000 invested. Savers with more than £1,000 are entitled to a variable distribution of extra shares. The optimistic figures for the opening share price assume that the stock market remains buoyant after the election. But if the index tumbles, Halifax has put in place a safety net for those who opt to sell immediately.

Next Monday Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the Halifax's advisers, will publish a "floor" price for the shares. Any of the 7.6 million beneficiaries who notify the Halifax by May 26 that they wish to dispose of their holdings before or on the day of conversion will not have their shares sold below this price.

Those whose holdings are sold off in the first auction on May 30 will be able to withdraw the cash from their Halifax accounts on Friday, June 6. There will be subsequent auctions during the first week of dealings for those who miss the May 26 deadline.

- Special forms now going out to customers allow them to sell or keep their shares. To ensure that you receive your shares, you must complete either Form A or Form B.
- Fill in Form B if you wish to sell immediately through the commission-free service. Choose Form A if you wish to have a share certificate, or if you want your shares held in the Shareholder Account, or you want to put your shares into a Halifax single company personal equity plan (Pep).
- Choose the Shareholder Account if you want freedom from paperwork. If, subsequently, you wish to sell all or part of your stake, you can. You can also add to your holding.
- If you want to retain your shares, take a share certificate.
- You can transfer your shares into the Pep for free. Only do this if you are, or will soon be, a higher-rate taxpayer, otherwise the annual charge could be the tax saving on your dividend. A £50 exit fee applies until April 1998.

☐ The Halifax is launching a new 60-Day Gold Account in May and is increasing the rates on Halifax Gold. Rates on 60-Day Gold (minimum investment £5,000) will range from 4.25 to 6 per cent on £100,000 or more. Bonus Gold (minimum £10,000) will pay from 5.10 to 6.20 per cent.

A&L members pay for free dealing

Shareholders in the Alliance & Leicester saw their shares soar to an initial high of 576p and then drop back to xxxp in the first week of trading. Many who sold their shares straight away through the free dealing service offered by the A&L will have received less than those selling on the open market, even when brokers' commission is taken into account.

The 27 per cent of shareholders who used the free dealing service will get £1,334 on the settlement day, April 28, while those who sold on the first day, when, for example, the shares were at 570p, would have made £1,405, assuming a commission of £20. Those who sold yesterday made £1,365, assuming a price of 554p.

The high price of the A&L surprised many analysts and brokers. BZW recommended buying the shares up to 520p — the maximum price many expected them to reach. When the transfer document was sent to members last October, the price was expected to peak at 485p. Analysts believe that the unexpectedly high share price was generated by high demand from retail investors. Although some think that there might still be a bid for the company, which could push the price to 650p, a predator would have to convince 75 per cent of shareholders for the society's five-year protection from takeover to be lifted.

Among those missing out on the windfall is Rev Brian Mountford, from the University Church of St Mary in Oxford. He said: "My church has had more than £25,000 invested with the Alliance & Leicester over a period of six years. As a vicar, and, therefore, an ex-officio trustee of church funds, I was the first named on our account. I also had a personal account. So I am excluded from the payout — this seems incredibly unjust."

The Skipton Building Society, which offers a telephone share dealing service, poured scorn on the treatment for A&L customers selling on day one. It said: "They indicated that they wished to sell on day one, but received a three-day average. Those who sold through Skipton's Dealwise had an average price of 561p on day one, or 555p after expenses — a considerable difference."

CAROLINE MERRELL

LONDON · OXFORD · BRISTOL · EXETER · BOURNEMOUTH · PORTSMOUTH · BRIGHTON

NEWCASTLE · BELFAST · EDINBURGH · GLASGOW · ABERDEEN · CAMBRIDGE · NORWICH · CHELMSFORD · CANTERBURY · EASTBOURNE

Planning For Retirement?

Young Ridgway & Associates Limited are specialists in providing advice and guidance for people who wish to make the most from their retirement.

We provide completely independent advice as to how you can achieve the

MAXIMUM INCOME & CAPITAL GROWTH

from your investments necessary to maintain your standard of living and to protect your capital.

Young Ridgway & Associates Ltd are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and are authorised to provide you with all the information you need. If you are approaching retirement you should find the time to complete and return this coupon - no stamp required - and we will send you a free copy of our 'Retirement Planning Guide' which will give you the information you need to know.

YRA Young Ridgway & Associates Ltd
Independent Financial Advice
FREEPOST - 10 Borelli Yard, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7BR.
Telephone 01252 727122

Please send me a FREE copy of your 'Retirement Planning Guide' brochure
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) ____
Address ____
____
____ Post Code ____
Telephone Number ____
I am retired Yes ☐ No ☐ I intend to retire in ____ months/yrs

RP7 TT 26/04/97

YRA
Young Ridgway & Associates Ltd
Established 1979
Independent Financial Advice

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

YORK · MANCHESTER · CHESTER · NOTTINGHAM · BIRMINGHAM · CARDIFF · LEICESTER

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER DEADLINE : MAY 31

BUILDING SOCIETY WINDFALLS.

PICK THE WRONG PEP AND YOU'LL BLOW IT.

Putting building society windfall shares into a PEP will save you tax. But our Windfall PEP service saves you needless charges too.

You can hold your windfall shares - or sell them - free of charge until April 1998. If you sell, you can reinvest in any of our PEPable funds - including our popular High Income Fund (current gross yield 7.5%*) or our top performing Growth Fund.

Better still, apart from 0.5% Government Stamp Duty on the Growth Fund, you won't pay initial or exit charges on either fund.

Either way, it's a highly competitive offer. It's also strictly limited. For a detailed fact pack, call between 8am and 9pm, seven days a week.

0800 40 30 30
http://www.prosper.co.uk

SAVE & PROSPER

DON'T JUST SAVE. SAVE AND PROSPER.

*Estimated gross redemption yield at 15.4.97 (gross running yield 7.6%). The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.
1828/012

Turn your pension fund into a very equitable income.

In order to relax and enjoy a comfortable standard of living in retirement you need to find a way of making your pension fund work as hard as possible.

Traditionally, the usual choice of pension has been one providing fixed payments. Now, at The Equitable Life, you can choose from a wide range of annuity options.

We offer with-profits and unit-linked annuities, as well as index-linked and guaranteed annuities. For those who want greater flexibility, managed pensions and staggered vesting facilities are also available.

No one else offers a choice this wide.

If you would like to find out more about how to enjoy an Equitable income in retirement then call us on (0990) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below for more information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome information on the Equitable range of annuities ☐
I expect to take the benefits from a personal pension plan in the near future ☐
TMNJ7A
NAME (Mr Mrs Miss) ____
ADDRESS ____
Postcode ____
Tel: (Office) ____
Tel: (Home) ____
Date of Birth ____
[illegible] ☐
Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A HIGHER RATE THIS WILL GUARANTEE YOUR INTEREST

6.70% GROSS P.A.

GUARANTEED UNTIL 30th June 1998

If you have over £1,000 to invest, our new one-year Fixed Rate Option Bond (Issue 1) gives you a higher return on your money, guaranteed. At the Coventry, we're committed to offering all our members competitive interest rates. And, unlike many competitors, we pay interest immediately, from the day you invest with us. Now who can say fairer than that?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION PACK CALL US NOW
0345 665522
LINES ARE OPEN: 9am to 9pm - 7 days a week
PLEASE QUOTE CODE: T081

COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY

HEAD OFFICE: Coventry Building Society,
Economic House, P.O. Box 9, High Street, Coventry CV1 5QN.

Interest rate on annual interest version is 6.70% gross p.a. (5.36% net equiv.) and will be paid on maturity (30th June 1998). Interest rate on monthly interest version is 6.50% (5.20% net equiv.). Interest will be paid net of the lower rate of tax (currently 20%) or, subject to the required certification, gross. Withdrawals or early closure are subject to a charge equivalent to 60 days' interest on the amount withdrawn. Information correct at time of going to press.

Your money could be earning up to 5.75% gross* in our Instant Access Account. So what are you waiting for?

	£500 – £4,999	£5,000 – £9,999	£10,000 – £24,999	£25,000 – £49,999
	Gross*	Gross*	Gross*	Gross*
Bank of Scotland Banking Direct® Instant Access Savings Account	4.75%	5.25%	5.75%	5.75%
Abbey National Investment (90 Day Notice)	3.05%	3.30%	4.00%	4.55%
Nationwide Capital Builder (90 Day)	4.00%†	4.30%	4.50%	4.80%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day)	N/A	3.50%	4.20%	4.80%

Source: Moneyfacts 14/4/97 † From £1,000

You don't have to tie up your savings for 90 days to earn a higher rate of interest. Quite the reverse, as a glance at the table above will show.

Bank of Scotland *Banking Direct* gives you instant access to higher rates – all from the comfort of your own home, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

To make your savings work harder without tying them up in a notice account call us now, free, on 0500 804 804 for an application form and brochure.

Please quote reference SA66.

Please send me more information on the Instant Access Savings Account. Post to: Bank of Scotland, Personal Banking, FREEPOST, 41, South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9XA.

Name:

Address:

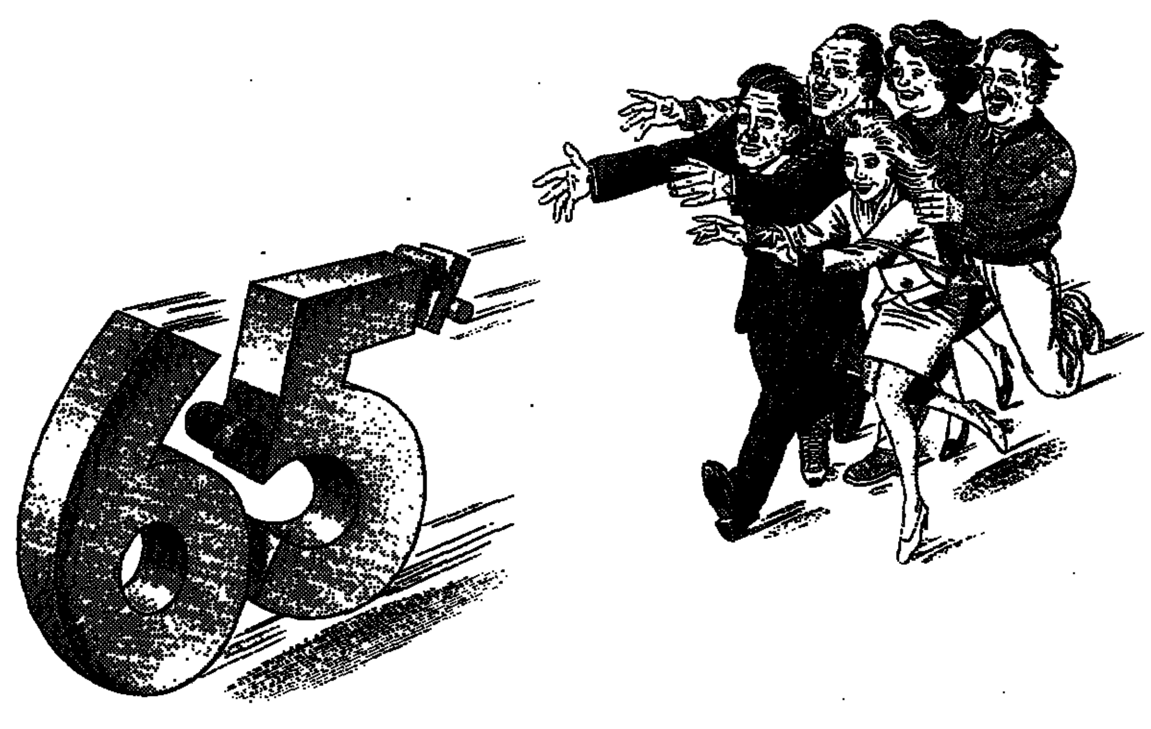
Postcode: Telephone Number:

SA66

BANK OF SCOTLAND
BANKING DIRECT®
Call us free on
0500 804 804

*Gross. The annual rate of interest paid without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non tax-payers.
Interest rates shown are correct at time of printing but subject to variation and are based on annual payment of interest. Interest is calculated daily and credited annually or monthly. If you choose to have your interest credited annually the Compounded Annual Rate is equal to the gross* annual rate quoted here. If you choose to have your interest credited monthly, provided the money remains in the account all year, the Compounded Annual Rate is equal to the gross* annual rate quoted here.
Telephone calls may be recorded for security purposes and may be monitored under Bank's quality control procedures.
Bank of Scotland Banking Direct and [illegible] are registered trademarks of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

You'll find the rates on our 90 Day Notice Account incredibly attractive.



If you want to earn a better rate and have a minimum of £10,000 to invest, then open a 90 Day Notice Account with TSB.

As you can see, with interest rates of up to 6.5%, this account makes most other banks and building society rates look decidedly plain.

Can't resist finding out more? Then just send off the coupon or call TSB PhoneBank free on 0500 758 400.

	ACCOUNT†	%GROSS*
TSB	90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	6.5%
WOOLWICH	PREMIER 90	5.4%
NATIONWIDE	CAPITAL BUILDER	5.1%
ABBEY NATIONAL	INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	5.0%
HALIFAX	SOLID GOLD 90	4.8%

Call free quoting ref. TM264
0500 758 400

†Different terms and conditions in respect of notice periods and loss of interest, may apply in respect of accounts offered by the different banks and building societies. Interest rates quoted are for £100,000. Source: Moneyfacts 19th March 1997. *Gross rates of interest do not take into account the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. Withdrawals can be made from a 90 Day Notice Account subject to 90 days notice of withdrawal, or 90 days loss of interest. The information in this advertisement is correct as of 18th April 1997. TSB Bank plc, Registered Office: Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales: Number 1089268. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Registered Office: Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland: Number 95237.

90 Day Notice Account

TSB We want you to say YES

Yes, I would like to receive further information about the TSB 90 Day Notice Account.

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .... *First Name:* ....

Address: ....

.... *Postcode:* .... *Telephone Number:* ....

We'd like to contact you from time to time with details about services from TSB and other TSB group companies if we think they'd interest you. However, if you'd prefer not to be told about these services, please tick this box ☐.

Send to: TSB PhoneBank, FREEPOST (BM6334), Glasgow G2 8BR.

To ensure security for our customers and staff and to help maintain service quality, some calls may be recorded and monitored. TM264

Matthew Wall on why a 'boom-bust' cycle is feared

Politics a sideshow

RUSSELL BOYCE

Boos and mudslinging: the election campaign has become more robust in the past week

THE MARKET AND THE ELECTION

With five days to go before election day the campaign is close to boiling point. But while the politicians frenziedly hurl mud and promises in equal measure, the markets look on with only mild curiosity.

As ever, it is the Wall Street show that draws the crowds. And with the Dow Jones industrial average soaring 173 points on Wednesday, its second-highest gain on record, it is easy to see why.

Inspired by the Dow's breathtaking acrobatics, the FT-SE 100 accelerated its steady recovery before finishing the week 18.8 points down at 4,369.7. Not much sign of pre-election nerves there. The only tinge of alarm holding back further growth is the fear of a hung Parliament. If there is one thing the markets hate more than uncertainty, it is stagnation.

Darren Winder, chief economist at SBC Warburg, the merchant bank, says: "It is ironic that the next US employment figure due out on May 2 is likely to overshadow the election result completely. If it shows strong growth, US interest rates will almost certainly rise again on May 20 and this could have an unsettling effect on the markets."

Another irony is that while the political parties seem obsessed with promising to reduce personal taxation, many City economists actually want tax increases. As Mr Winder says: "The last thing the City wants is a repeat of the 'boom-bust' cycle of the late Eighties, so we think a tightening of fiscal rather than monetary policy is desirable."

Income tax accounts for less than a quarter of the Government's income, so if Gordon Brown becomes the next Chancellor there are plenty of other ways he can raise taxes. Restricting or scrapping tax reliefs is an obvious option, as is cutting capital allowances for businesses and tinkering with personal allowances. Scrapping mortgage interest relief could also help to keep house price inflation under control.

Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers, says: "One thing investors can be certain of under a Labour Government is that consumers will take precedence over shareholders. The market is likely to stay volatile for some time to come."

But Mark Miller, UK economist at Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, said: "We still think equities will outperform gilts this year and that the FT-SE 100 will reach 4,500. There is a risk that Labour will reduce the tax credit on dividends, which would be bad news for pension funds, but such changes are unlikely to take hold until next year."

A Labour victory is almost certain to be greeted with a stock market fall, however short-lived. But this has not stopped some market-makers deciding to open all night on Thursday in the hope of making a turn should the election deliver a surprise, as it did in 1992. And NatWest Stockbrokers has also decided to burn the midnight oil on election night in readiness for its customers moving in or out.

Colonial flotation conundrum

Members of Colonial, the demutualised Australian financial services group, have six days — until May 2 — to decide if they want to keep or sell their windfall shares. The shareholder statements will be sent out at the end of May after the official listing on May 19.

However, Colonial's flotation on the Australian stock market leaves 255,000 policyholders in the United Kingdom, who are entitled to a share handout worth an average £1,300, with an unusually difficult problem. The beneficiaries of other demutualisations, like that of Alliance & Leicester, which floated on Monday, have simply to decide whether they should sell their shares immediately or wait to see if the price rises after flotation. Some have made an extra £200 or more by waiting before they sold in the open market, rather than relying on the price achieved in three institutional auctions this week.

But Colonial members, who have just learnt that they would receive an average 1,000 shares each, will also have to take into account the sterling/Australian dollar exchange rate and the cost of selling on the Australian market. Those who choose to sell as part of the flotation offer will avoid broker charges, but lose out to sterling's current high exchange rate.

The price of the shares, to be determined by the offer process, will be converted into sterling for UK policyholders at the rate applicable on May 16. On the other hand, those choosing to hold on to their shares in the hope that the price will rise when trading starts, or that sterling may fall after the general election, will have to pay a broker premium to sell them on the Australian or New Zealand market.

One further complication is Colonial's decision to include an option handout, which will allow those who hang on to their shares to buy further Colonial shares at a 15 per cent discount sometime before June 1998. The company demutualised in December, but it has only just put a value on its shares. Under the terms of the distribution, 10 per cent of members will get a minimum of 225 shares worth £290, although there will be no upper limit.

Brewin Dolphin (0171 248 4400) is offering an execution-only service after listing. David Fiddes, a BD broker specialising in Australian equities, said members who decide not to sell immediately via Colonial's own service needed to wait for the shareholder statement before they could sell through BD.

BD charges 1.95 per cent commission for selling with a minimum charge of £30, plus a £10 contract fee and 0.5 per cent Australian stamp duty. The broker has an arrangement with Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the market-maker that will set a price in sterling. *Colonial helpline (0345 697 502).*

MARIANNE CURPHEY
AND GERRY TAYLOR

Selling your Endowment?
Vote Neville James

☒ Top prices for suitable policies
☒ Prompt valuations, firm offers
☒ Professional, specialist staff 7 days a week

— PLEASE CALL NOW —
01243 52 00 00
EVERY DAY 8 AM - 8 PM

Neville JAMES

Neville James Limited,
Forum Integritatis, West Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TB
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
Member of The Association of Policy Market-Makers

Self Assessment don't go it alone

For a free British Taxpayers Association brochure...

BRITISH TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Est.1919

Call BTA now on
0990 28 28 29

WITH-PROFITS BOND

An investment opportunity with guaranteed peace of mind.

Investing on the stock market can often be extremely lucrative. You may be able to achieve a much higher rate of return than that offered by a fixed interest savings account.

But there is an element of risk involved. You could also lose money rather than make money.

The Equitable Life's With-Profits Bond reduces the risk.

If you have £500 or more to invest, you can place it in a managed fund of assets comprising equities, properties and fixed interest securities.

Whatever future market conditions are like, we guarantee that at the fifth and subsequent anniversaries you can encash the bond for at least the original value of the contractual benefits.

Over the long term, however, such a mixed portfolio of assets offers the prospect of a real capital growth.

If you'd like to know how to make more of your savings without disturbing your peace of mind, call (0990) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below for information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome information on the Equitable With-Profits Bond ☐ TMBA7F

NAME (Mr Mrs Miss)

ADDRESS

Tel: (Office)

Tel. (Home)

Date of Birth

Postcode

[illegible] ☐

Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Nathan Yates sees both sides of Pep mortgages

Should she or shouldn't she? Pep mortgages are not always the answer for buyers seeking a loan for a new home

All right for some

Personal equity plan (Pep) mortgages are the latest craze on the mortgage market. A TV advertising campaign by NatWest Bank claims a Pep mortgage is the perfect choice for its heroine. Pep mortgages have also replaced endowments as the flagship product of Halifax Building Society, Britain's biggest lender. For new homebuyers, whether the marketing hyperbole on Pep mortgages is backed by real benefits is an urgent question. The answer is a very qualified "yes".

Advantages

With a traditional repayment mortgage you pay interest plus a proportion of the original sum borrowed each month but with a Pep mortgage you pay only the interest on the loan. The money saved is used to buy Peps, tax-efficient vehicles for buying unit or investment trusts. There are other interest-only mortgages such as endowment or pension schemes but the potentially higher rate of return that can be provided by Peps could make this interest-only product the most effective cost-cutter.

Research by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, the unit trusts body, shows that £50 per month invested over the past 25 years in the average Peppable unit trust would now be worth £210,303. This is more than double the gain on the average with-profits endowment, which would now be worth just £96,468. On this record, you are more likely to pay off your mortgage quickly with a Pep mortgage than with an endowment.

The tax treatment of Peps and endowments are also entirely different. Peps are free from capital gains tax and income tax. If endowments are held for more than 10 years, they benefit from a tax-free lump sum. Pep mortgages offer greater flexibility than endowments. You can invest up to £9,000 per year into a Pep, and a Pep mortgage offers freedom within that limit particularly if you choose one that is "unpackaged," or not directly controlled by the lender.

If you want to entrust your Pep allowance to different fund managers each year you are free to do so, and you would be well advised to spread your portfolio. This will reduce your exposure to risk if one of your funds performs badly. You are also allowed to contribute more to your Pep mortgage one year and less the next. Payments can also be stopped and restarted.

The flexibility and high returns of Peps mean they are hard to beat as repayment vehicles, said NatWest's Keith Scott. "Pep mortgages are not suitable for everyone, but if you have not used your full Pep allowance it is difficult to see a situation in which you would recommend an endowment over a Pep," he said.

Disadvantages

There are potential pitfalls with a Pep mortgage. One of biggest drawbacks is that, unlike an endowment, you can dip in to your Pep before you have paid off your mortgage. If you suddenly run short of money to pay school fees or other large debts, you may not be disciplined enough to leave your Pep plans untouched, which could leave you short of money when it comes to paying off the loan. Another drawback is the need to pay extra life cover which will repay the loanb in the event of death.

The mass sale of interest-only endowment mortgages in the 1980s helped to create the negative-equity disaster. More than four in five mortgages sold then were endowments. Those who took out endowments were offered the same prospect of surplus bonuses as Pep mortgage buyers are today. However, some endowments underperformed, and many borrowers have had to pay extra premiums to make sure they get an adequate final sum. But the risks that Peps will fail to repay loans are much less because the administrative and commission charges deducted from plans are insignificant compared with the charges on endowments.

Peps were introduced as a tax incentive to investors by Nigel Lawson, the Conservative Chancellor, and future governments may revoke his provision. Because a Pep must be bought under a new contract each year, it is more vulnerable to a change in policy than more permanent endowment deals, though none of the main parties plans to end them.

Pep mortgages also face the claim that they are higher risk than endowments because they involve direct investment in equities which can fall in value, particularly if there is a stock market slump. In addition, if you have a Pep mortgage and lose your job it is likely that you would be disqualified from help with repayments from the Department of Social Security. The DSS only gives assistance to those with less than £8,000 capital, and your Pep would probably exceed this limit.

Conclusion

Pep mortgages offer a mixture of risks and gains. Choosing whether to take one depends on your circumstances, said Patrick Bunton of London and Country Mortgages. "They are best suited to higher earners who are not as exposed to the risks," he said.

☐ *For a free factsheet about Pep mortgages, ring Autif on 0171-831-0898.*

KICK START YOUR PEP WITH A 5% DISCOUNT

A growing number of investors are becoming aware of the substantial discounts that can be achieved by arranging their PEPs through a discount broker, rather than investing direct. Elson Associates are now one of the leading brokers in this field. We offer the very best discounts in the UK on PEPs and other investments, including unit trusts and bonds.

Kick start your PEP with a discount from Elson Associates and save up to £275 in charges on a £6,000 PEP (equivalent to a 5% discount, less our normal £25 handling fee). To achieve this, we sacrifice our commission (typically 3%), and negotiate further discounts, where available, from the PEP providers. And remember, we're independent, so we offer a full choice of PEPs from all the leading companies.

If your existing PEP **has not kept pace with the leaders**, why not try **and make up some lost ground** by switching to a new PEP, using our favourable discounted terms.

For further information, cut out and return the coupon below to Elson Associates, FREEPOST DT1138, 18 Maxwell Road, Welling, Kent DA16 1BR or alternatively call us free on

ELSON ASSOCIATES ☎ 0500 691790 ☎

Regulated By The PIA Personal • Investment • Authority

Name ....

Address ....

.... Postcode ....

I am particularly interested in a .... (company) PEP.

Please send me the relevant application form together with the discount information TT 26/4/97

... from Elsons

The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Taxes relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief depends on the circumstances of the investor. We will not be offering any advice as to the suitability of the PEPs we are marketing. PEPs are not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubt whether an investment is suitable for you, you should obtain expert advice.

£100,000 Life Cover For As Little As 30p A Day*

You may already have enough life assurance cover to pay off the mortgage should anything happen to you. But how would your partner cope with all the other costs of living, like paying the bills, clearing off debts, and generally supporting your family? Conversely, how would you manage on your own?

Term Assurance provides affordable life assurance cover for a fixed period, with a guaranteed cash sum payable on death during that fixed period.

For a fixed payment of only £9.10 a month* a General Accident Term Assurance policy can provide cover of £100,000 for 10 years.

Call General Accident now to secure your family's future, and receive further information on Term Assurance and a personal illustration.

FREE FOR YOU

We'll also send you a *FREE GIFT* of a stylish Pen and Pencil set plus details of how to claim a second free gift – a choice of a Black and Decker Cordless Screwdriver, a Custom Monaco Roll Bag or a Casio Travel Clock Radio Alarm.

This offer applies if you are aged between 20 and 55 inclusive

*This is based on a healthy male, non-smoker, aged 30 next birthday.

The cost of cover will depend on age, sex and smoking status.

Full written details of Term Assurance are available on request. Any financial advice given will relate only to the products of General Accident Life

General Accident Life Assurance Limited
2 Rougier Street York YO1 1HR
General Accident Life is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

KEY PROTECTION FROM GA THE KEY PEOPLE

ACT NOW!
TO REQUEST FURTHER DETAILS AND YOUR FREE GIFT
CALL FREE:
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS
0500 100 200

Or complete the coupon and send to: Term Assurance, General Accident, FREEPOST, YO550, YORK YO1 1BR.

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ________ 280/58
Forename(s) ________
Surname ________
Address ________
________ Post Code ________
You may telephone me on:
Daytime ________ Evening ________
Date of Birth __/__/__ Smoker ☐ Non-Smoker ☐
(Note: a non-smoker is a person who has not used any tobacco products in the last 12 months.)

The above details are required in order to give you a personalised illustration. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you, by post or phone, about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated GA Group companies. Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information. For your security, your call with General Accident will be recorded and may be monitored. Registered in England No. 226742 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR.

GA General Accident

Private Medical Insurance that makes time stand still for the over 50's

80
70
60
50
40
30

Just take a moment to consider this.

If you commence your private medical insurance with Exeter Friendly Society at say 52, you'll pay the subscriptions of a 52 year old for life. How many other private medical insurers make you such an offer?

You see, at Exeter we never increase your subscriptions simply because you get older, which can save huge amounts over the years. Because we are a friendly society, with no shareholders to pay, all surpluses are utilised to improve benefits for Members.

For full details, please telephone, fax or return the coupon.

WE MAKE YOU FEEL SO YOUNG

THE EFFECT OF AGE RELATED INCREASES WHEN YOU JOIN AT AGE 50

If you are under 80 years of age please telephone 01392 477210, fax 01392 477235 or complete this coupon for details.

Mr/Mrs/Ms ________
Address ________
____
Postcode ________ Tel: ________
Ages of people to be included ________
Current insurer ________ Renewal date ________

50 PLAN EXETER FRIENDLY SOCIETY TT 07/97

BEECH HILL HOUSE, WALNUT GARDENS, EXETER, DEVON EX4 4DG

NEW

PEP INVESTMENT WITH A
MARKS & SPENCER
FINANCIAL SERVICES GUARANTEE

Are you saving for the future?

If you do not have a General PEP for the new tax year and would like your savings to benefit from the growth potential of the stock market, with the reassurance of a 5th anniversary guarantee, the Marks & Spencer Guaranteed Capital Investment Plan - Issue 4 could be just what you are looking for -

- **Your original investment is guaranteed on the 5th anniversary▲**
- **You have tax-free* growth potential via the Marks & Spencer UK 100 Companies Fund which tracks the FTSE® 100 Index**
- **The FTSE® 100 Index has grown by 111% in the last 5 years compared with average Tessa growth of 41%†**
- **You can invest any amount from £3,000 to £6,000 per person**
- **Access to your investment at all times**
- **There is no initial charge and no exit charge to pay**
- **Security for your family should you die**

OFFER CLOSES 30th MAY 1997

For full details of both this Plan and our new High Income PEP including application forms and terms and conditions

CALL FREE ON
0800 363451
quoting TTP26A
8am to 8pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm weekends
Internet address: http://www.marks-and-spencer.co.uk

Please remember the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

MARKS & SPENCER
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Marks and Spencer Unit Trust Management Limited.
Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Registered Office: Michael House, Baker Street, London W1A 1DN.
Registered in England: 2253009. *A subsidiary of Marks and Spencer plc.*
Marks and Spencer Unit Trust Management Limited is part of the Marks & Spencer Financial Services Marketing Group which uses the business name Marks & Spencer Financial Services.

▲The guarantee is provided by Marks and Spencer Financial Services Limited and does not form part of the General PEP. The guarantee is applied on 6th June 2002. Your original investment is guaranteed unless you have made a complete withdrawal of your investment. If you make a partial withdrawal from your investment before 6th June 2002 the amount of your original investment guaranteed will be reduced.
*You can invest up to £6,000 in each tax year in a General PEP. Any tax paid on income is then claimed back from the Inland Revenue and any gain you make when selling your Plan is also tax-free. The tax treatment of PEPs may be changed by future legislation. The value of any tax benefits will depend upon your individual financial circumstances.
†The performance of the FTSE® 100 Index over five years to 31st March 1997 is calculated on an offer to bid basis including all dividend income net of tax. Tessa performance is based on the average of a large selection of Tessas available for the whole period excluding Tessa accounts for which bonus schemes are applicable. Source HSW

Hurt investors await payment details

Marianne Curphey on the end of a hard few months for Morgan Grenfell

BRIAN HATTON

Peter Young was investigated by Imro

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Nicola Horlick was the subject of suspension

A total of 80,000 investors in Morgan Grenfell who lost money in the wake of the Peter Young affair will discover on Tuesday how much they will receive in compensation.

They are the individual account-holders whom Morgan Grenfell has been able to compensate quickly. However, there are a futher 100,000 people whose funds are held in 250 nominee accounts. These include people who have bought trusts via managers such as Skandia, which has 45,000 Morgan Grenfell European investors, Aegon, and Tower Trust of New Zealand.

These account-holders will have to wait until Morgan Grenfell has completed negotiations with the managers, which could take several months. The reason for the delay, says Frances Davies, head of pooled funds at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, is because each investor's compensation is individually assessed, and managers need to provide very detailed data.

"We have our own records which have already been checked and verified, but we need the same from the other managers. If the delay becomes too long, we will just work out compensation based on the records we do hold and the managers can divide the cheque up themselves between their investors."

Peter Young, who was the subject of an official investigation by Imro, the City regulator, had been regarded as the most successful European fund manager in the unit trust business, with a noted long-term performance track record. The focus of the investigation was irregularities on unquoted securities held by the three European funds he managed.

The official investigation and compensation is thought to have cost Morgan Grenfell's parent, Deutsche Bank of Germany, around £430 million. This includes an immediate payment of £180 million in cash which Deutsche Bank put into the European funds to support them when the Peter Young affair was discovered.

The bill also includes legal fees, the cost of advisers and the extra burden of funding the official investigation. A team of 100 specialists from Ernst & Young have been assessing the compensation, and creating a unique computer model to work out individual compensation packages. A further 100 accountants from Arthur Andersen have been shadowing the exercise and reporting findings to Imro.

Shares in the three funds managed by Peter Young were suspended on September 2, 3 and 4, 1996, and relisted on September 5. In the interim, Deutsche Bank had replaced the unlisted securities with £180 million in cash.

Around 30 per cent of investors left the fund within the next few weeks.

Ms Davies said yesterday: "We established August 1, 1995, as the first date from which prices were affected by Peter Young's irregularities."

She said an investor who had bought £6,000 worth of European Growth Trust Income units in March 1996 and held them until September would have lost £1,047. However, since the compensation payable of £955 based on the index performance still did not restore the fund to the original capital invested, Morgan Grenfell is paying an extra £92 to make up the difference, plus £40 for the delay, based on a 6 per cent interest rate.

In putting together an index to calcuate compensation for investors, Morgan Grenfell compared 80 funds for the European Growth trust and European Capital Growth, and ten for Europa.

The eight months have been difficult ones for Morgan Grenfell. While still recovering from the blow dealt by Peter Young, it faced the row over Nicola Horlick, the "superwoman" pension fund manager, who was suspended in January amid allegations that she was about to defect to a rival firm.

L&G joins the direct pensions club

Legal & General is to start selling personal pensions over the telephone, in a move which will bring it into direct competition with such household names as Virgin and Marks & Spencer. But this week the company was unable to explain why its plan would apparently produce a higher return than that of its nearest rival on price, Flemings, when the charges on the L&G pension are higher.

This underlines the often opaque structure of pension charges, which have come under fierce attack from consumer groups and MPs. Pensions designed to be sold over the telephone are meant to be simple for investors to understand because the provider does not give advice.

L&G says that someone putting £100 a month into its plan over 25 years would end up with a fund of £95,200. In L&G's comparative chart, the same amount saved in a Flemings pension would produce £94,000.

But according to L&G's figures, supplied by Flemings, L&G levies an upfront charge of 3 per cent, a monthly plan fee of £1.50 and an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent.

By contrast, Flemings charges an upfront fee of just 0.5 per cent, no plan fee and an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent, falling to 0.25 per cent for investments of more than £10,000. Adrian Boulding, L&G's pensions director, could not explain why Flemings' lower charges resulted in a lower estimated final fund. Ian Overgage, Flemings' marketing manager, confirmed L&G's figures for Flemings were correct but could not shed any light on the apparent discrepancy.

The new L&G pensions will be cheaper than those sold through its own salesmen or via independent financial advisers because customers will not pay the salesman's commission. L&G staff will not be licensed for customer-specific advice.

SARA McCONNELL

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A LANDLORD?

"IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK WITH THE WOOLWICH"

Our new **"Buy to Let"** product is a tailor made mortgage and insurance package designed for private individuals wishing to purchase a property for investment.

We are able to offer competitive terms and through our streamlined telephone based service provide the highest levels of professionalism and customer care.

If you would like to find out more about this exciting new product call us, at local rate, Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 9.00 pm Saturday 9.00 am – 3.00 pm Sunday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm on **0345 45 44 45** quoting ref: TBL264. For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded.

Get much more with
WOOLWICH
DIRECT
0345 45 44 45

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.
'A first charge over the property will be required as security for a mortgage. For interest only loans you are advised to arrange a suitable repayment vehicle to repay the capital at the end of the mortgage term. All mortgages are subject to status and valuation and a minimum age 18. A written quotation is available on request. Woolwich Direct is a service provided by Woolwich Building Society which represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance and unit trust business. BTL2

Confused?
What will you do with a lump sum of £5,000, £25,000, or £250,000?

PEPs, Unit Trusts, Building Societies*, TESSAs*... with several thousand investment options to choose from, no wonder you're confused!
You need UNBIASED advice.
Investor Intelligence, one of the UK's largest groups of independent financial advisers, can help you.
Simply call us FREE anytime on
0800 19·20·21
or return the Freepost coupon.

INVESTOR
INTELLIGENCE
You'd be well advised to contact us

To: Investor Intelligence, FREEPOST, Bournemouth BH1 1BR
Name ....
PHONE ....
Address ....
.... Postcode ....
☐ Data Protection 1984: please tick box if you do not wish to receive further mailings
TIM 26/4 CON

The value of shares & the income from them can fall as well as rise, & if you withdraw from this investment in the early years, you may not get back the full amount invested. The past is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Tax benefits may vary and their value depends on individual circumstances. *The Personal Investment Authority does not regulate some Building Societies and TESSAs. Your local Independent Financial Adviser is authorised & regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, SIB or IBRC to give you independent advice. This advertisement is approved by Interdependence Ltd, AMC House, Chantry Street, Andover, Hampshire, who are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. This service is available throughout the UK, Channel Islands, & to ex-patriates.

Find out why pension plans are not all the same.

Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE:
- **Pays no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.**
- **Has no shareholders.**

OUR PENSION PLAN:
- **Lets you retire earlier or later than planned – without penalty.**
- **Lets you vary your contributions – without penalty.**
- **Provides full return of fund in the event of death before retirement.**

So, if you would like to find out more about how The Equitable Pension Plan is not the same as most others, call us direct on (0990) 38 48 58 or send off the coupon below for more information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

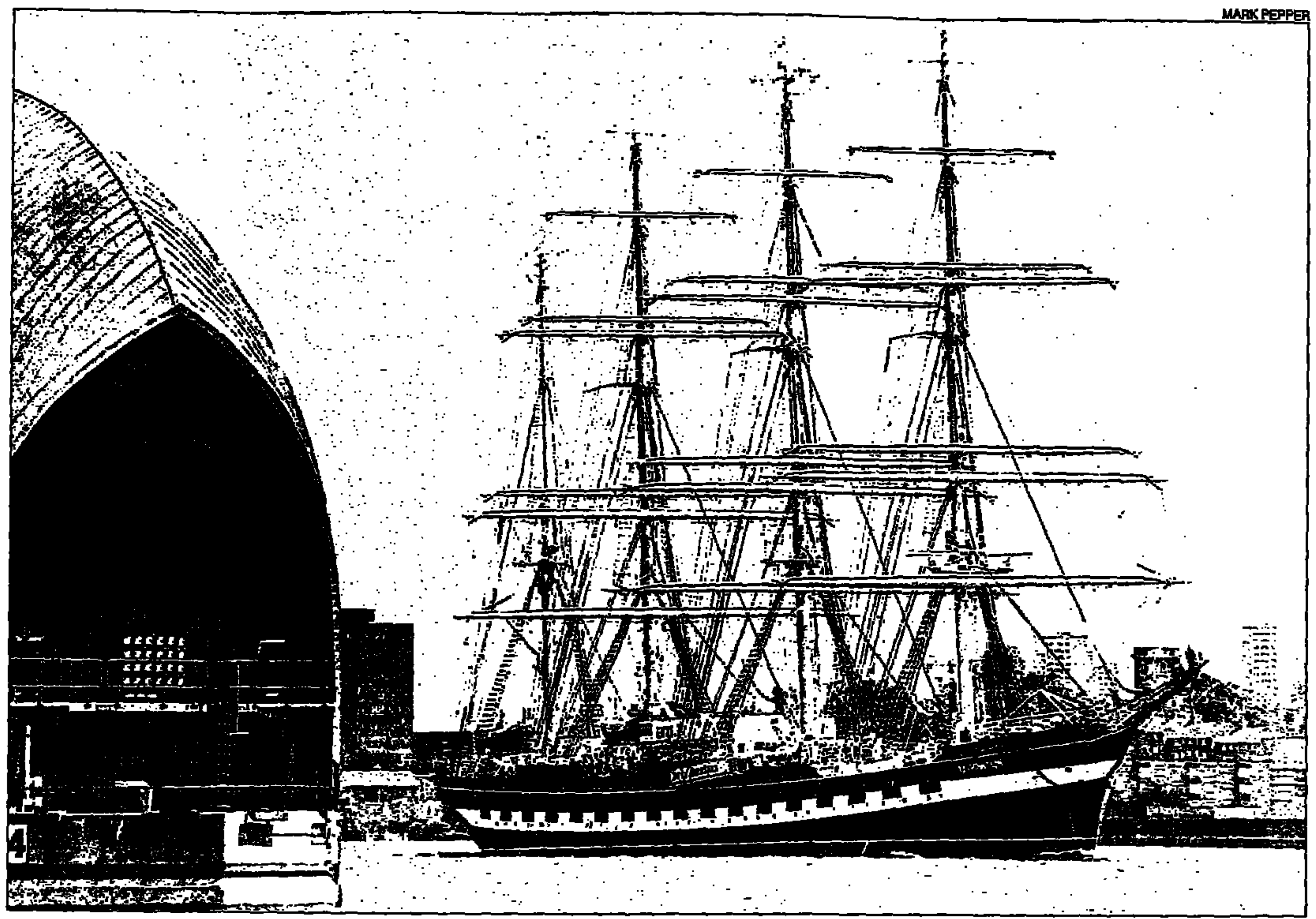
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self employed ☐
I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐ TMRA7E
NAME (Mr Mrs Miss) ______
ADDRESS ______
Tel. (Office) ______
Tel: (Home) ______
Date of Birth ______
Postcode ______
We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer to receive no further information from us, please tick this box ☐
Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Raiders sail in as investment trusts hit the doldrums

Nathan Yates on whether this is winding-up time for some trusts, or a chance for bargain hunters


MARK PEPPER

London bound: analysts think a wave of takeover deals is imminent for poorer performing trusts, as foreign investment companies build stakes

Investment trusts are in the popularity doldrums. Shunned by institutional and private buyers alike, they have now slumped to their lowest price relative to the FT-SE 100 in four years.

A report, to be published next week by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, claims that the whole investment company sector could be "sliding into relative obscurity."

With news like this, investors are unlikely to embark on a trust-buying spree. But behind the adverse publicity, a dispute is raging among analysts. Some agree that investment trusts are in trouble; others say that this sector is now offering its biggest bargains.

According to Credit Lyonnais Laing, the investment trust market is burdened by an oversupply of shares, particularly in the large generalist trusts. And fund managers have developed a habit of launching new trusts each time prices improve. However, this surplus in itself could be a bonus for investors.

Investment trust prices are determined by the demand for shares, rather than the performance of funds as with unit trusts, which are priced by dividing the value of the fund by the number of units issued.

When investment trust supply exceeds demand, shares are sold at a discount to their value as a proportion of the company's assets (known as net asset value). Since 1994, oversupply has meant that the average discount has more than doubled from 4 per cent to 11 per cent.

This increase in discounting across the entire sector means that with high quality trusts there is now a disproportionate gap between performance and popular appeal, according to John Korwin-Szyminowski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg.

"Discounts are generally used to reflect the quality of the funds concerned, but we are now seeing traditionally premium-rated stocks at discount prices," he said.

"At the moment you can buy quality very cheaply, and investors should take advantage quickly because this situation will not last."

Investors who succeed in selecting cheap top performing funds could reap the investment trust "double whammy" of solid long-term returns plus a short-term profit if the discount narrows and prices rise.

Research published this month by HSBC James Capel shows several investment trusts are now breaking through their habitual discount levels.

Against that, Credit Lyonnais Laing's report predicts no upturn in prices. It believes that investment trust discounts will widen further and rates as high as 20 per cent will become standard.

An upturn in investment trust prices depends upon the return of institutional buyers into the sector. Credit Lyonnais Laing's argument is that major buyers have permanently lost interest in investment trusts.

Some analysts believe that a wave of takeover deals is imminent for the poorer performing investment trusts, and investors could reap benefits from these.

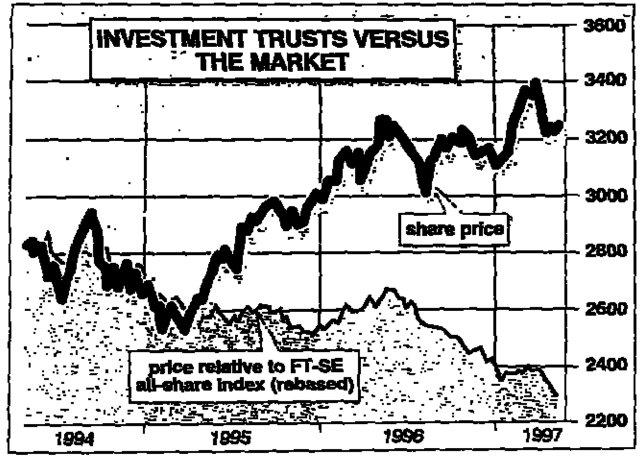
"There is a lot of collective American money building up and buying investment trusts is something of a heads you win, tails you do not lose scenario right now," said Mr Korwin-Szyminowski. "If you invest in a trust and it does not perform, sooner or later it is likely that an arbitrageur will wind it up."

Carolyn Cook, of NatWest, is one of many analysts who disagree with Credit Lyonnais Laing.

TRUST WATCH

"Institutions are holding off at the moment because of the coming election and the uncertainty over what the next government will do in its Budget," she said. "But institutions are not blind to the fact that some trusts are extremely cheap."

If you think that investment trusts are due for a comeback, analysts' tips include Brunner Investment, the Banker's Trust, Henderson Electric & General, Martin Currie Securities, Taiwan Investment and the Scottish Mortgage. It is possible to buy shares in investment trusts for as little as £25 per month using a regular savings plan, and you can obtain free information on these from the Association of Investment Trust Companies on 0171-431-5222.



Your Life Assurance *can* be cheaper

If you already have life assurance *or* if you are about to take out a policy *you could save over half your premiums* as different major insurers charge widely varying rates for exactly the same cover.

Policy Choice Direct

The financial people who let you choose

Our Unique Service is FREE
We are totally independent.

- Our *FREE GUIDE* gives you the facts.
- You decide the type of policy you want.
- Our free listings show you the rates of the top companies, saving you time & money.
- We arrange the policy for you.
- We refund your first two months premium.

We do not give financial advice. We simply provide the information which enables you to make your own decisions.

Call us Free on 0500 813913
FREE GUIDE REQUEST LINE OPEN 24 HRS
(OFFICE OPEN 9am - 5.30pm MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

• Not all insurance policies & investments are suitable for everyone so if you have any doubt about suitability seek expert advice
• Policy Choice Direct PLC is an appointed representative of Pier Financial which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.

Perpetual's Offshore Income Accumulator Fund offers you a valuable combination of investment benefits: improved security, tax efficiency and flexibility.

Improved security, because the fund invests in bond and money markets which historically are a more predictable and less volatile investment than equities.

Tax efficient, because all income is reinvested in the fund allowing you to benefit from compound returns. And you can defer payment of tax on income earned until it is most beneficial to you. For example, when you are paying a lower rate of tax.

Flexible, because you can switch easily and economically between classes in the fund as and when you wish.

For more information on Perpetual Offshore Income Accumulator Fund Limited, call our Customer Services Department on +44 (0) 1534 607660 or send a fax on +44 (0) 1534 38918.

To: Perpetual Fund Managers (Jersey) Limited, PO Box 459, d'Hauteville Chambers, Seale Street, St Helier, Jersey, JE4 8WS, Channel Islands. Please send me details on the Offshore Income Accumulator Fund. **Important:** *Please print clearly.*

Print Name ______
Address ______
______
Postcode ______

TIM/A 26/4/97

SECURITY, TAX EFFICIENCY AND FLEXIBILITY.

Perpetual

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations), and you may not get back the amount invested. This advertisement does not constitute an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such an offer is not authorised or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Persons into whose possession this advertisements may come are required by the Manager to inform themselves of and to comply with any relevant restrictions.
In considering an investment in Perpetual Offshore Income Accumulator Fund Limited reference should be made to the Prospectus. Perpetual has expressed its own views and opinions in this advertisement and these may be subject to change.

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Sharelink to deal on election night

Sharelink, the execution-only stockbroker, has announced that it will be operating a share dealing service throughout election night on May 1. The service *will allow Frequent Traders* Club members to deal while the London market is closed between 4.30 pm on election day and 8.30 am the following morning. Call 0990 810810.

☐ Whether you have £50 or £50,000 to invest at home or abroad, it pays to spread your money, says the latest Which? Books publication. *Which? Way to Save and Invest*, priced at £14.99, will help you *to devise an investment* strategy to maximise your money, as well as guide you through *the complexities of share own*ership. Available from bookshops or Which? Ltd on 0800 252100.

☐ Ten million customers could be carrying out their banking through a PC by 2005, according to research by Barclays Bank. In order to meet the needs of those wishing to bank from home, Barclays has launched two PC banking services. The first will offer a link with Microsoft Money 97 and enable customers to manage their financial affairs via PC software. *The second will be a* stand-alone Barclays PC Banking Service that will allow customers to pay bills and check balances. Call 0800 000097 for more details.

☐ A new range of fixed-rate savings *accounts with interest* rates of up to 7.15 per cent gross per annum will be introduced on Wednesday by Birmingham Midshires. The minimum investment is £5,000. Call 0645 720721.

☐ If your personal pension is being reviewed at the moment, a useful factsheet published by the Securities and Investments Board explains what may happen next and *how to speed the process up.* For a copy, call 0171 382 0830.

☐ *Cheltenham & Gloucester* has launched an instant transfer account paying 6 per cent gross per annum on the minimum investment of £1,000. Call 0800 742437. C&G has also introduced a two-year fixed-rate bond, available for a limited period only, paying a guaranteed annual return of 7.10 per cent gross. Call 0800 717505.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Instant Access	Instant	£1	5.75	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 742437	Instant Transfer	Inst B	£1,000	6.00	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Instant	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 202121	Instant Postal	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 956 4422	Postal Plus	30 day p	£2,500	6.40	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 60	60 day p	£25,000	6.70	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 100	100 day	£1,000	6.30	Yly
Leopold Joseph 0171 588 2323	100 Day Notice	100 day	£10,000	6.54	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed+*feeder a/c*	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/Yly
Bank of Ireland (GB) 0800 971971	Fixed+feeder opt	5 year	£3,000	7.50	F/Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		5 year	£3,000	7.00	Yly
Monmouthshire BS 01633 840454		5 year	£1,000	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	*Card type*	Interest per month	APR%	*Fee per annum*
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

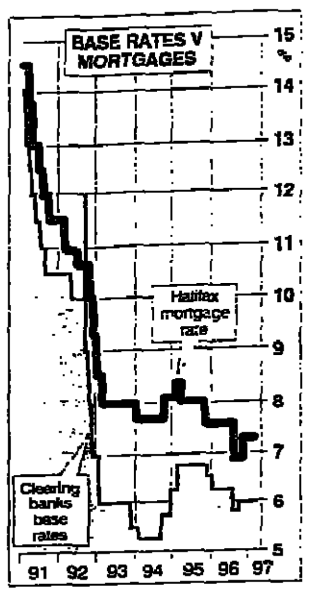
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

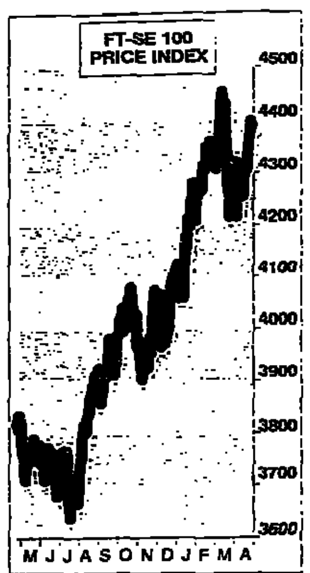
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	*Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs* with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£114.29	£102.59
Lombard Direct 0800 215000	13.90%A	£120.02	£101.20
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95	£101.45

Nb. A = APR dependent on credit rating, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*⁴	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500***	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*⁵	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond⁴	6.00	4.60	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†‡	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond⁵	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
10th Index Linked†‡	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3⁵	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000⁵	60day	*0645 645000*

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free ² Inst acc for up to £100 ³ Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds ⁴Tax free ⁵Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years †0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁸£100,000 + in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but cred in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£ 9,880	£10,916	£12,264
Canada Lfe ....Level	£ 9,792	£10,870	£12,340
Sun Lf of Can........Level	£ 9,806	£10,847	£12,269
Standard Lf..........Level	£ 9,776	£10,844	£12,248
Equitable Lf..........Level	£ 9,905	£10,824	£12,027

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,237	£10,036	£11,214
Canada Life ....Level	£9,096	£ 9,901	£11,083
Generali ....Level	£8,987	£ 9,839	£11,018
Sun Lf of Can........Level	£9,066	£ 9,806	£10,896
Norwich Union.......Level	£8,973	£ 9,765	£10,910

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£8,763	£9,290	£10,102
Generali ....Level	£8,664	£9,289	£10,150
Canada Life ....Level	£8,671	£9,287	£10,163
Sun Lf of Can........Level	£8,690	£9,264	£10,083
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,660	£9,186	£ 9,910

Source: *Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)*

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at April 24, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.35
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	5.90
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.05
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.15
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.15
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.15
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.25
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.35
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.53
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.63
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.73
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.71
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.81
	50,000	*GE Financial Assur*	*6.91*
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
	10,000	GE Financial Assur	7.30

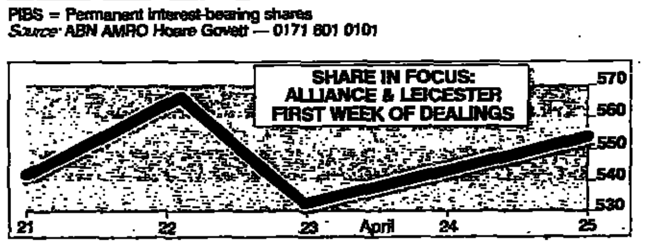
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. *Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.*

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	104.30	8.974	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	128.35	9.057	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	*13.000%*	*143.60*	*9.053*	*100.20*	*10,000*
Bristol & West	13.375%	148.37	9.014	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	144.23	9.013	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	134.82	8.959	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	127.50	9.216	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	100.63	8.695	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	134.64	8.000	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	155.58	8.758	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	148.70	8.995	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	120.38	8.913	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	*140.40*	*8.992*	*100.45*	*1,000*
Northern Rock	12.625%	142.28	8.873	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	143.17	8.993	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	112.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	101.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Northern Rock 0800 591500	4.79	to £80k	95	2.50% discount to 1.6.2000
Woolwich Local Branch	4.29	£20-200k	50	3% disc-12 mths plus 3% cashbk
Nationwide 0800 302010	4.39	£150-300k	90	2.60% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mth 3% disc 6 mths
Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	4.25	£150-250k	90	3% discount to 1.10.97

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% disc-6mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	*0.75*	*£25-150k*	*75*	*Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98*
Universal *0191 2320973*	1.24	£20-150k	95	Rate after 6% *disc to 1.7.98*
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6mth 3% disc-6 mth
Alliance & Leic plc 0800 412214	4.25	to £250k	90	3% discount to 1.5.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 119955	4.99	£15k+	95	Rate fixed-1.3.98 plus 1% cashback
Newbury 01635 43676	*3.99*	*£15-100k*	*95*	*3% discount for 12 months*
Halifax *01422 333333*	4.25	no min/ *maximum*	95	3% dsc-31.5.99,0.5% *over SVR-31.5.2004*
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.89	to £125k	95	Rate fixed to 31.7.99

Larger lenders loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482).

UP TO
6.5%
P.A. GROSS

For details of the market- leading Birmingham Midshires 90 day account plus our *free* election action pack call us now

CALL NOW ON FREEPHONE
0800 526 093
FREEPHONE LINES OPEN 24 HOURS

CHASE DE VERE
INVESTMENTS PLC
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY
BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNTS ARE NOT REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	*Offer*	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE				
0131 339 9191				
Balanced	541.40	573.00	+ 4.40	.
UK Equity	732.40	775.10	+ 6.80	...
Property	428.80	453.80	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	361.70	382.90	- 1.30	...
Money	273.50	289.50	+ 0.20	...
International	421.00	445.60	+ 8.30	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL				
01202 292373				
Custodian S4	200.00	210.60	+ 0.20	...
Ethical S4	171.00	180.00	...	0
International S4	219.50	231.10	+ 2.20	...
Protected Gilt S4	127.20	133.90	+ 0.30	...
Asian Pacific	206.90	217.80	+ 3.20	...
European S4	229.90	242.10	+ 3.80	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	413	434.80	- 0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	288.90	304.20	+ 1.10	...
Man Ser 4	811.30	854.10	+ 4.90	...
Conv Ser 4	359.30	378.30	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	359.00	377.90	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	404.60	425.90	- 0.70	...
American Ser 4	690.90	727.30	+11.20	...
High Inc Ser 4	*879.00*	925.30	- 2.70	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	232.80	245.10	- 0.20	...
Japan Ser 4	279.60	294.40	+ 8.90	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ				
01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2048.20	2155.90	-16.80	...
European Fd Acc	509.60	536.40	+ 6.10	...
Fixed Int Acc	577.10	607.50	- 2.60	...
Gtd Money Acc	365.60	384.80	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	744.60	783.80	+ 4.60	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	366.50	385.70	- 0.80	...
Japan Fund	221.40	233.00	+ 6.30	...
N American Acc	428.10	450.60	+ 5.60	..
Prop Fd Acc	489.10	514.80	+ 0.50	..
Multiple Inv Acc	1269.40	1336.10	+ 9.30	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	410.10	431.70	+ 0.20	...
Equity Acc	1794.80	1889.30	+19.40	..
Property Acc	678.90	714.30	+ 0.90	..
Far East Acc	315.50	332.20	+ 2.80	...
Managed Capital	631.30	664.60	+ 4.80	...
-do- Acc	1362.00	1433.70	+10.50	...
Overseas Acc	1272.80	1339.80	+10.10	..
Gilt Edged Acc	562.20	591.80	- 3.30	..
Amer Equity Acc	1160.80	1221.90	+19.60	...
Amer Man Acc	484.60	510.20	+ 7.60	...
Amer Prop Acc	119.00	124.30	...	..
Distribution Bonds	25.70	27.10	+ 0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks				
01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	180.60	190.10	- 0.20	...
Balncd Ser 6	896.30	943.40	+ 9.40	...
Opportunity Ser 6	204.50	215.20	+ 2.00	...
Distribution Ser 6	106.20	111.70	+ 0.10	6.55
UK Equities Ser 6	£13.42	£14.12	+17.10	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	£13.75	£14.47	+10.00	...
North Amer Ser 6	574.10	604.30	+ 6.00	...
Far East Ser 6	540.70	569.10	+ 3.60	...
Europe Ser 6	517.00	544.20	+ 6.70	...
Intnl Ser 6	673.70	709.10	+ 9.20	...
Property Ser 6	617.20	649.60	- 0.90	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	500.90	527.20	- 1.00	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	202.90	213.50	- 0.40	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	326.90	344.10	+ 0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB				
0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1146.90	1207.30	+13.00	..
-do- Initial	698.10	734.90	- 7.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	447.90	471.50	- 2.60	...
-do- Initial	275.00	289.50	- 1.60	...
International Acc	460.10	484.40	+ 6.00	...
-do- Initial	280.70	295.50	+ 4.00	...
Managed Acc	658.10	692.80	+ 6.40	...
-do- Initial	402.60	424.10	+ 3.90	...
Money Acc	319.10	335.90	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	326.60	343.80	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	199.00	209.50	+ 0.20	...
America Acc	395.90	416.80	+ 4.90	...
Far East Gwth	258.50	272.20	+ 2.40	...
Financial Acc	506.60	533.30	+ 7.60	...
500 Accum	546.80	575.60	- 1.00	..
Japan Acc	218.80	230.40	+ 4.90	...
Income Acc	675.70	711.30	+ 3.40	...
Leisure Acc	333.80	351.40	- 2.20	...
Special Sits Acc	349.00	367.40	+ 4.80	.
Unit Tech Acc	189.30	199.30	+ 2.30	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF				
01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	942.69	992.69	+10.04	...
Income Fund	957.97	£10.08	+12.17	...
Extra Income	863.78	909.25	+ 8.27	...
Worldwide Gth	558.91	588.33	+ 8.00	...
Balanced Fund	855.65	900.69	+10.57	...
Smllr Cos Recvn	£11.07	£11.66	+ 8.22	...
N Amer & Genrl	476.83	501.93	+ 5.96	...
Pacific Basin	417.14	439.10	+ 0.86	...
German Growth	284.86	299.86	- 2.54	.
Japan Growth	148.10	155.90	+ 4.43	...
The UK Gth Fd	277.86	292.49	+ 3.62	...
Contl Euro Gth	178.02	187.39	+ 0.99	...
Property Fund	433.84	456.68	+ 1.43	...
Fixed Interest	371.88	391.40	- 3.17	...
Cash Fund	310.03	326.35	+ 0.24	...
Managed Inv	591.37	622.50	+ 6.22	...
Nth Amer Recvy	286.78	301.88	- 1.14	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	546.78	575.56	+ 7.54	...
BRITANNIA				
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR				
0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	208.80	221.00	+ 1.80	...
Performance Plus	235.60	249.20	+ 2.30	...
With Profit Perf	192.40	203.50	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	270.70	286.30	+ 1.00	...
Euro Opportunity	290.40	307.30	+ 5.10	..
North Amer Opp	239.70	253.70	- 1.30	...
Far East Opp	*209.30*	*221.40*	+ 5.80	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	182.50	192.10	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	215.60	228.10	...	...
Fixed Int	232.80	246.20	- 1.30	..
Cash	173.40	183.40	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	271.50	287.30	+ 2.70	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	437.40	460.50	+ 3.00	...
UK Equity	818.80	861.90	+ 3.00	...
Property	297.60	313.30	+ 0.10	...
Money Market	274.80	289.30	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	338.10	355.90	- 1.90	...
Japan	297.40	313.10	+ 9.60	...
North America	213.30	224.60	- 1.20	...
International	419.50	441.60	+ 4.10	...
European	371.40	391.00	+ 6.50	..
Far East	155.00	163.30	+ 4.30	...
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
01707 51122				
Managed	410.30	431.90	+ 4.50	...
Property	283.70	298.70	+ 0.70	..
Gilt & Fxd Int	274.50	289.00	- 1.30	...
Equity	500.30	526.70	+ 6.60	...
Cash	233.80	246.20	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	470.70	495.50	+ 2.60	..
CLife Intl Fd	380.30	400.40	+ 6.50	...
Managed Fund	*876.30*	*922.10*	*+ 9.60*	...
Property Fund	569.40	599.40	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund	1234.60	1299.60	+16.10	...
Gilt Edged Fd	708.00	745.30	- 3.60	...
Deposit Fund	362.50	381.60	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	544.00	*571.20*	*+ 7.10*	...
International	605.30	637.20	+10.30	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd,				
***Milton Keynes MK9 2NU.* 01908 606101**				
Property Fund	175.30	184.60	...	...
Managed Fund	787.00	828.50	+ 8.10	...
Equity Fund	476.60	501.70	+ 6.50	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	352.90	371.50	- 3.00	...
Ruby	202.20	212.90	+ 1.40	...
Emerald	161.40	169.90	- 0.80	...
Equity	428.50	451.10	+ 4.00	..
Property	245.00	257.90	...	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	233.90	246.30	- 1.60	..
Indexed Secs	185.90	195.70	- 0.70	..
Cash	204.20	215.00	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	307.40	323.60	+ 1.10	...
Far East	281.00	295.80	+ 8.70	...
International	276.00	290.60	+ 3.10	...
Special Sits	465.50	490.10	- 2.80	...
Intl Income	382.60	402.80	+ 3.70	..
European	432.70	455.50	+ 4.00	...
Japanese	107.40	113.10	+ 3.70	...
SE Asia	399.70	420.80	+ 2.90	...
With Profits Reg	190.80	200.90	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	190.80	200.90	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	420.60	442.80	+ 4.70	...
Equity	545.80	574.60	+ 7.80	...
Property	230.90	243.10	- 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	304.70	320.80	- 2.30	...
Index Linked	199.60	210.20	- 1.00	...
Cash	281.00	295.80	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	384.40	404.70	+ 0.20	...
Far East Acc	289.60	304.90	+ 6.70	...
International Acc	352.20	370.80	+ 5.10	...
Special Sits	714.30	751.90	- 3.40	...
European Flex	637.20	670.80	+ 6.90	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime,				
Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key 1	349.06	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	384.74	...	...	...
-do- Cash	220.20	231.70	+ 0.17	...
-do- Equity	695.48	732.08	+ 6.93	...
-do- Fxd Int	415.42	437.28	- 2.08	...
-do- Managed	493.64	519.62	+ 4.08	...
-do- Property	371.64	391.20	+ 0.97	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	216.18	227.57	+ 0.05	...
-do- Cash Inv	344.10	362.22	+ 0.32	...
-do- Equity Cap	£18.28	£19.24	+22.02	...
-do- Equity Inv	*£29.10*	*£30.63*	*+37.08*	...
-do- Fixed Cap	444.13	467.52	- 3.02	...
-do- Fixed Inv	706.94	744.16	- 4.29	...
-do- Index Cap	212.30	223.49	- 0.94	...
-do- Index Inv	337.93	355.73	- 1.26	...
-do- Mngd Cap	*718.19*	*756.10*	*+ 6.87*	...
-do- Mngd Inv	£11.43	£12.03	+11.74	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	£10.06	...	+17.11	...
Var Ann (5) 1	114.58	...	+ 1.46	...
Prime: Managed	494.90	521.00	+ 4.90	...
Prime: UK Equity	645.50	679.50	+ 7.60	...
Prime: Intl Equity	337.80	355.60	+ 4.60	...
Prime: Property	256.10	269.60	+ 0.70	...
Prime: Fxd Int	265.60	279.60	- 1.00	...
Prime: Index-Lnk	188.20	198.20	- 0.40	...
Prime: Cash	224.80	236.70	+ 0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN				
01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1345.10	1415.80	+ 1.80	...
Equity II	2028.00	2134.70	+ 8.40	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ.				
01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ul With Pfts (580) 1	113.20	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) 1	*108.50*	...	*+ 0.10*	...
Managed (3) 1	120.91	...	+ 1.00	...
Equity Mngd (3) 1	120.70	...	+ 1.30	...
Adventurous (3) 1	112.10	...	+ 1.30	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	109.70	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	294.90	310.50	+ 3.00	...
Managed S1	293.80	309.30	+ 2.40	...
Adventurous S1	233.30	*245.60*	*+ 2.90*	...
Managed (2)	198.00	208.50	+ 1.70	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) 1	112.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) 1	108.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed (2) 1	117.90	...	+ 1.20	...
Equity Mngd (2) 1	119.10	...	+ 1.50	...
Adventurous (2) 1	110.30	...	+ 1.60	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	109.80	...	+ 0.10	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	383.00	396.80	+ 4.70	0.01
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH				
01722 413366				
Managed	388.60	409.10	+ 4.30	...
UK Equity	543.40	572.10	+ 5.90	...
Stewardship	485.60	511.30	- 0.20	..
Overseas Equity	354.10	372.80	+ 5.50	...
North American	210.30	221.40	+ 3.60	...
Pacific Basin	173.70	182.90	+ 4.20	...
European	338.80	356.70	+ 3.90	...
Property	189.10	199.10	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	275.80	290.40	- 1.60	...
Index Linked	188.50	198.50	- 0.60	...
Cash	220.30	231.90	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	*610.20*	*642.30*	*- 4.00*	...
Managed	865.60	911.10	+10.90	..
Deposit	376.50	396.30	+ 0.30	...
Property	538.70	567.00	+ 0.60	...
American	575.40	605.60	+10.50	...
Australian	684.90	720.90	+12.90	..
European	791.30	832.90	+ 8.90	...
Income Acc	961.60	1012.20	+ 9.00	...
-do- Dist	529.90	557.70	+ 5.90	4.86
International	370.10	389.50	+ 5.80	..
Japan Smaller	326.80	344.00	+10.40	..
Singapore & Mal	429.70	452.30	- 3.90	...
Smaller Cos	543.10	571.60	+ 8.10	...
Tokyo Fund	546.80	575.50	+16.30	..
UK Equity	750.70	790.20	+10.10	..
CCM Vangd Mg	922.20	970.70	+11.70	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond				
EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	313.90	330.50	+ 2.90	..
GT Plan Wwide	567.10	597.00	+ 3.90	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex				
CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	808.80	808.80	+ 6.50	...
-do- Inv A	808.70	851.40	+ 6.90	...
UK Equity	526.60	554.40	+ 6.10	...
Gilt Plus	228.10	240.20	- 1.00	...
Managed	367.00	386.40	+ 3.20	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	259.00	272.60	+ 2.50	...
Unitised Profits	161.90	170.40	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	382.80	402.90	+ 3.60	...
Fixed Int	221.20	232.70	- 1.40	...
Index-Linked	183.30	192.90	- 0.60	...
Cash Deposit	190.10	200.00	+ 0.10	...
Property	184.20	193.80	+ 0.20	...
International	207.00	217.80	+ 3.30	...
American	227.80	239.70	+ 4.00	...
Japan	197.10	207.40	+ 4.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	201.80	212.40	+ 4.70	...
European	229.60	241.60	+ 3.30	...
Pacific Fund	307.60	323.70	+ 2.60	...
Conv Life	162.40	170.80	+ 0.60	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	591.20	622.30	+ 5.60	...
Managed Initial	368.90	388.30	+ 3.20	...
Equity Ord	967.50	1018.40	+ 9.10	.
Equity Init	603.60	635.40	+ 5.30	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	223.50	235.30	- 0.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	145.60	153.30	- 0.60	..
Oseas Equity Ord	437.80	460.80	+ 6.60	...
Oseas Equity Init	273.20	287.60	+ 4.00	...
Property Ord	285.90	300.90	+ 0.20	...
Property Init	178.40	187.80	...	..
Fixed Int Ord	325.30	340.30	- 2.00	...
Fixed Int Init	201.70	212.30	- 1.40	...
Deposit Ord	226.60	238.50	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Initial	141.40	148.80	...	..
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	896	933.30	...	..
Managed Initial	558	587.40	+ 5.50	...
-do- Acc	839.60	883.80	+ 8.60	...
Equity Initial	909.40	957.30	+ 9.20	...
-do- Acc	1368.40	1440.40	+15.20	..
Fixed Int Initial	475.70	500.70	- 3.10	..
-do- Acc	715.70	753.40	- 4.30	...
Intl Initial	500.30	526.70	+ 7.80	...
-do- Acc	752.80	792.40	+11.90	...
Nth Amer Initial	246.10	259	+ 2.60	...
-do- Acc	337	354.70	+ 3.70	...
Pacific Initial	208.10	219	+ 5.20	...
-do- Acc	282.20	297.10	+ 7.30	...
Property Initial	186.40	196.20	...	...
-do- Acc	280	294.70	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	168.80	177.70	- 0.90	...
-do- Acc	231.20	243.40	- 1.10	...
Deposit Initial	206.20	*217.10*	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	310.30	326.70	+ 0.30	...
Euro Initial	132.30	139.30	+ 2.30	...
-do- Acc	167.50	176.30	+ 3.00	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 28S, York YO1 1YD 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	31.53	33.19	+ 0.31	...
Balanced	31.41	33.06	+ 0.37	...
Opportunity	32.21	33.91	+ 0.42	...
Deposit	25.90	27.26	+ 0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	24.27	25.55	+ 0.34	...
Balanced S2	24.39	25.67	+ 0.39	...
Opportunity S2	24.12	25.39	+ 0.44	...
Deposit S2	24.06	25.33	+ 0.02	...
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs				
PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	*209.90*	*220.90*	*+ 2.10*	...
-do- Pens	271.00	285.20	+ 3.70	
UK Equity	228.90	240.90	+ 2.60	...
-do- Pens	278.10	292.70	+ 4.00	...
International	175.30	184.50	+ 2.70	...
-do- Pens	195.30	205.50	+ 3.60	...
Deposit	152.10	160.10	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	185.50	195.20	+ 0.20	.
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon				
0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	710.20	751.60	+ 1.70	..
British Fund	741.50	784.70	+12.20	...
International	637.50	674.70	+ 7.20	...
Dollar Fund	558.90	591.50	+ 6.90	...
Capital Fund	613.90	649.70	+ 6.80	...
Income Fund	921.20	974.90	+11.80	...
Property Series A	517.70	547.90	...	4.90
Property Units	862.20	905.40	...	...
Financial Fund	869.30	919.90	+20.30	...
Managed Ser A	678.80	718.40	+ 5.70	..
Managed Units	1225.70	1290.30	+10.30	...
High Yield Fund	821.60	869.50	+ 8.20	...
Money Series A	317.40	335.90	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	424.60	447.00	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	785.80	831.60	+ 6.30	.
Fixed Interest	425.10	449.90	- 3.20	..
Indexed Secs	*205.60*	*217.60*	*- 1.10*	..
European Fund	968.70	1025.10	+ 7.30	.
Natural Res	307.20	325.10	+ 1.80	...
Far East Fund	598.10	633.00	+ 2.50	...
Smaller Cos	692.50	732.90	+ 1.00	...
Special Sits	*709.00*	*750.30*	*- 0.50*	...
Man Currency	285.10	301.70	+ 0.40	...
Japanese Tech	261.90	277.20	+ 6.00	...
US Smaller Cos	400.10	423.40	+ 0.80	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	271.40	285.70	...	...
Financial Ser 1	69.70	74.40	+ 1.90	...
Fixed Interest	373.20	392.90	- 2.00	...
Gold	79.10	83.40	- 0.10	...
Managed	748.90	788.40	+ 8.20	...
Mngd Growth	238.10	250.60	+ 5.60	...
Mngd Opp	255.10	268.60	+ 5.80	...
Property	381.30	401.30	...	...
Residential Prop	118.60	124.90	- 0.10	...
TSB American	324.70	341.90	+ 3.50	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1162.20	1223.50	+16.40	..
TSB European	360.80	379.80	+ 2.90	...
TSB Income	535.00	563.30	+ 6.90	...
TSB Intl	490.90	516.80	+ 5.60	...
TSB Intl Inc	351.10	369.70	- 1.00	...
TSB Pacific	429.60	452.30	- 0.10	...
TSB Prem Inc	324.50	339.00	- 2.00	..
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans,				
Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	710.30	747.70	+ 8.10	..
Global Property	321.40	338.30	...	...
Global Fixed Int	592.20	623.40	- 3.70	...
Global Equity	782.20	823.40	-10.30	...
Global Cash	234.60	246.90	+ 0.20	...
For Laurentian see Lincoln				
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE				
01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	198.80	209.30	+ 0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	181.40	191.00	+ 1.20	...
-do- Acc	241.50	254.30	+ 1.50	...
Cash Initial	171.40	180.50	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	316.60	333.30	+ 0.30	...
Equity Initial	833.50	877.40	+10.30	...
-do- Acc	1538.90	1619.90	+18.80	...
Fixed Initial	372.90	392.60	- 1.80	...
-do- Acc	688.50	724.80	- 3.40	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	138.60	145.90	- 0.60	...
-do- Acc	218.40	229.90	- 0.80	...
Intl Initial	340.70	358.70	+ 4.20	...
-do- Acc	619.30	651.90	+ 7.50	..
Managed Initial	554.10	583.30	+ 6.00	...
-do- Acc	1023.00	1076.90	+11.10	...
Property Initial	228.30	240.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	421.60	443.80	+ 0.40	...
LINCOLN				
The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge,				
Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	17307	...	+173.00	...
Property Units	2954	3109	+ 7.00	..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	8022	8444	+68.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	817.40	860.30	+ 8.60	...
2nd High Inc Ac	786.50	827.80	+ 8.00	...
2nd Property Acc	265.60	279.40	+ 0.50	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	201.20	211.70	+ 0.20	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	557.20	586.50	+ 4.60	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	269.60	283.60	+ 2.40	..
2nd Deposit Acc	310.60	326.90	+ 0.30	...
2nd Gilt Acc	343.10	361.00	- 1.50	...
2nd Amer Acc	881.10	927.30	+ 8.50	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	243.20	255.90	+ 1.20	...
2nd Index Acc	226.60	238.50	- 0.60	...
2nd Far East Acc	393.10	413.60	+ 4.50	...
2nd Global Acc	187.10	196.90	+ 1.80	...
2nd Euro Acc	200.10	210.50	+ 1.10	...
2nd Japan Acc	142.10	149.50	+ 4.20	.
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	171.10	180.00	+ 0.20	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	158.80	167.00	+ 1.40	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	564.10	593.70	+ 0.50	..
Managed	500.80	527.10	+ 4.80	..
American	524.60	552.10	+ 4.20	...
UK Equity Fd	592.80	623.90	+ 6.80	...
Japan	158.30	166.50	+ 5.10	...
Index-Lkd	202.90	213.50	- 0.50	...
High Yield	1094	1152	+11.00	..
Money	441.30	464.40	+ 0.30	..
International	417.40	439.30	+ 4.90	...
Henderson Active	*226.60*	238.40	+ 3.70	...
Perpetual Active	373.00	392.50	+ 4.50	...
Growth Acc	784.10	825.30	+ 7.30	...
Gilt Edged	485.80	511.30	- 2.20	...
European	182.50	192.10	+ 1.00	...
Far East	212.10	223.30	+ 0.30	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA				
0117 984 7777				
Equity 1	£11.39	...	+ 9.70	...
Fixed Interest 1	495.50	.	- 2.70	...
Property 1	470.80	...	+ 2.60	...
Deposit 1	323.40	...	+ 0.30	..
Mixed 1	718.10	...	+ 4.90	..
Indexed Stock 1	241.50	...	- 0.70	..
International 1	320.00	...	+ 2.80	..
Equity A 1	263.40	...	+ 2.20	...
Fixed Int A 1	219.20	.	- 1.10	...
Property A 1	206.30	...	- 1.10	..
Deposit A 1	189.50	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A 1	235.30	...	+ 1.70	...
Index Stock A 1	188.50	...	- 0.60	..
International A 1	199.30	..	+ 1.70	.
Equity P 1	988.40	...	+10.40	...
Fixed Int P 1	678.50	.	- 3.20	...
Property P 1	368.90	.	+ 0.50	..
Deposit P 1	389.70	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed P 1	679.70	...	+ 5.70	...
Index Stock P 1	277.70	..	- 0.90	...
International P 1	377.30	...	+ 4.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap 1	620.10	...	+ 2.70	...
-do- Acc 1	1154.60	..	+ 5.90	...
Property Cap 1	*140.30*	...	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc 1	249.20	...	+ 0.50	...
Fxd Interest Cap 1	200.00	...	- 1.60	...
-do- Acc 1	358.20	...	- 2.70	..
Equity Cap 1	382.20	...	+ 5.50	...
-do- Acc 1	*697.10*	...	*+10.60*	...
Internatl Cap 1	238.10	...	+ 3.70	...
-do- Acc 1	429.40	...	+ 7.10	...
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	140.20	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc 1	284.60	...	+ 0.10	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	382.70	.	+ 4.30	...
-do- Acc 1	645.20	...	+ 8.40	...
Moneymaker Fd 1	528.90	...	+ 4.50	..
Capital Growth 1	2271.30	...	+35.30	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB				
01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	562.40	590.60	+ 8.70	...
Amer Rec Bond	645.50	677.90	+ 5.50	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	252.70	265.40	+ 1.20	...
Australasia Bd	324.70	341.00	+ 5.70	...
Commodity Bond	410.00	430.60	+10.10	...
Deposit Bond Acc	395.50	415.40	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1848.30	1940.80	+ 7.90	...
European Bd Acc	522.90	549.10	+ 5.20	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	960.00	1008.10	+ 9.60	..
Gilt Bond Acc	504.00	529.40	- 4.10	...
Gold Bond Acc	156.10	164.00	+ 1.20	.
High Yield Bond	403.90	424.20	+ 1.40	..
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	228.70	240.20	- 0.80	...
International Bd	868.60	912.10	+ 9.00	..
Japan Bond Acc	180.00	189.10	+ 3.50	.
Japan Sm Cos Ac	172.30	181.00	+ 7.00	...
Managed Bonds	1061.20	1114.30	+ 4.10	...
Prop Bond Acc	490.10	514.70	+ 1.20	..
Rec Bond Acc	948.70	996.20	+ 4.60	..
S East Asia Bd Acc	342.70	359.90	+ 1.40	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing				
BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	288.70	303.90	+ 3.90	...
UK Equity Acc	442.80	466.20	+ 6.50	...
Special Sits	120.30	126.70	+ 1.30	...
Special Sits Acc	184.60	194.40	+ 2.10	...
North American	230.50	242.70	+ 0.90	...
N American Acc	353.50	372.20	+ 1.50	...
Pacific Basin	333.60	351.20	+ 5.80	...
Pacific Basin Acc	511.60	538.60	+ 9.10	...
Fixed Interest	303.10	319.10	- 0.90	...
Fixed Interest Acc	465.40	489.90	- 1.30	...
Property	185.30	195.10	...	...
Property Acc	284.60	299.60	+ 0.30	...
Deposit	155.00	161.20	..	.
Deposit Acc	238.10	250.70	+ 0.20	...
Managed	308.50	324.80	+ 3.10	...
Managed Acc	436.10	459.10	+ 4.70	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead				
Bristol BS1 2NH				
0117 9266 366				
Property	438.50	461.50	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	468.50	493.10	+ 6.90	...
Gilt Edged	673.80	709.20	- 4.20	...
Interest Fund	437.90	460.90	+ 0.40	...
Managed Fd	580.00	610.50	+ 3.00	...
Intl Equity	694.00	730.50	+ 7.20	...
North American	284.80	299.70	+ 4.20	...
Far East	447.90	471.40	+10.30	...
Intl Currency	260.20	273.80	+ 0.50	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH				
0171 623 4200				
Managed	600.30	631.80	+ 5.10	...
UK Equity	837.90	881.90	+10.40	..
Overseas Equity	538.30	566.60	+ 4.80	...
Americas	516.60	543.70	+ 3.40	...
Far East	553.70	582.80	+ 5.00	...
Property	234.00	246.30	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	444.10	467.40	- 2.40	...
Indexed Gilt	256.00	269.40	- 1.00	...
Deposit	238.70	251.20	+ 0.20	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD				
PO Box 888, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ				
0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	170.80	179.60	+ 2.00	.
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP				
01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1826.00	1922.10	+14.60	...
Equity Fund	4239.30	4462.40	+40.60	...
Property Fd	*677.60*	713.30	+ 2.20	...
Fixed Int Fd	690.70	727.10	- 7.40	...
Deposit Fund	387.30	407.70	+ 0.30	...
Intl Fund	293.80	309.30	+ 3.00	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA				
01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	382.00	403.00	+ 4.30	.
Fxd Interest Acc	280.50	295.30	- 1.70	..
International Acc	287.70	303.53	+ 4.00	.
Managed Acc	263.30	277.30	+ 2.40	..
Property Acc	219.90	231.00	+ 1.10	.
Money Acc	169.50	179.00	+ 0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	214.10	225.90	+ 3.00	.
Japan Equity Acc	95.50	100.70	+ 3.60	
N Amer Acc	219.70	231.30	+ 5.60	...
Pacific Acc	136.30	143.50	+ 2.70	.
European Acc	257.20	271.40	+ 2.50	..
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough				
PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	143.60	151.20	+ 0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	345.20	363.40	- 0.40	.
Inv Equity	1603.70	1688.20	+25.40	..
Inv Managed	1058.20	1113.90	+12.50	..
Ret Managed	1235.80	1300.90	+16.40	..
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH				
0171 405 9222				
Managed	434	452.10	+ 3.80	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP				
0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	988.60	1040.90	+ 8.40	...
Equity Fund	2090.90	2201.00	+20.00	..
Intl Fund	748.90	788.40	+ 8.70	...
Fixed Interest	649.80	684.10	- 2.80	.
Property Fund	504.30	530.90	..	..
Cash Fund	399.90	421.00	+ 0.30	...
Pacific Basin	353.00	371.60	+ 5.60	...
N American Fd	382.50	402.70	+ 0.60	...
Euro Fund	371.60	391.20	+ 5.00	.
Balanced Fund	196.00	206.40	+ 1.70	...
Strategic Fund	212.40	223.60	+ 1.80	.
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough				
PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) 1	923.60	...	..	...
-do- Acc	505.10	531.70	...	...
Op Prop	538.90	567.30	+ 5.20	...
Op Equity	1316.40	1385.70	+15.80	...
Op High Yield	680.30	716.10	- 5.50	...
Op Managed	1003.90	1056.70	+10.90	...
Op Deposit	429.50	452.10	...	...
Japan Smlr	166.70	175.50	+12.30	...
Managed Gth	352.10	370.60	+ 4.00	...
British	480.90	506.20	+ 7.40	...
Global Bond	121.20	127.60	- 0.50	...
Gold Share	82.60	86.90	- 1.40	...
Japan	326.60	343.80	+ 8.80	..
UK Smlr Cos	594.80	626.10	+ 0.40	...
Mngd Growth	579.80	610.30	+ 4.90	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS				
0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	478.70	503.40	+ 5.00	...
Equity Fund	716.60	754.30	+ 8.10	...
Property Fund	354.90	373.50	+ 0.20	...
International	560.60	590.10	+ 8.20	...
Pacific Basin	260.50	274.20	+ 3.20	.
United States	377.70	397.50	+ 4.60	...
Gilt Fund	428.20	450.70	- 3.60	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex				
RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	90.80	96.10	+ 0.20	2.38
Deposit Fund (2)	416.00	440.30	+ 0.50	6.48
Gilt Fund	602.00	637.10	- 3.20	8.31
Global Equity Fd	272.20	288.10	+ 3.20	..
Property Fund (46)	*122.90*	*130.10*	...	7.15
AG Bond Fund	160.20	169.60	+ 1.30	..
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow				
0141 248 2323				
Equity	786.10	827.50	+10.30	...
Fixed Interest	420.10	442.30	- 2.70	..
Index-Linked	217.00	228.50	- 0.40	..
International	*515.40*	*542.60*	*+ 7.60*	...
Property	327.90	345.20	+ 0.30	...
Cash	252.10	265.40	+ 0.30	..
Managed	574.30	604.60	+ 6.60	...
Cap Gteed Bd	154.50	162.70	+ 2.50	...
95% Safeguard	*103.30*	...	...	...
100% Safeguard	99.50	...	+ 0.10	...
Wealth Pres Cap	102.50	.	+ 0.40	...
Wealth Pres Inc	158.60	..	+11.10	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF				
0131 556 9101				
Cash	199,590	210,100	+ 0.17	...
Index-Linked	183.80	193.60	- 0.90	...
Fixed Interest	208.20	219.30	- 1.50	...
Mixed	321.80	338.90	+ 2.70	...
UK Equity	321.50	338.50	+ 3.30	..
International	302.20	318.20	+ 3.90	...
American	380.60	400.60	+ 6.50	..
Japan	189.30	199.20	+ 2.90	...
European	357.20	376.10	+ 5.30	...
Pacific	361.80	380.80	+ 0.60	...
Technology	511.90	538.80	+ 7.70	...
Frgn Bd/Cncy	237.10	249.70	+ 0.60	.
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE				
0131 225 2211				
Property	239.20	251.80	- 0.60	...
UK Equity	482.70	508.20	+ 4.60	...
American	335.80	353.60	+ 2.80	...
Pacific	343.80	362.00	+ 5.30	...
European	623.30	656.20	+ 2.30	...
Global Mgd	366.80	385.20	+ 3.50	...
Fixed Interest	272.50	287.80	- 1.50	..
Index Linked	219.40	231.10	- 0.80	...
Deposit	214.40	225.80	+ 0.20	...
Managed	358.90	377.70	+ 2.40	...
Worldwide	139.70	147.20	+ 1.70	..
Pen Worldwide	151.80	159.80	+ 2.20	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN				
0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2110.90	2176.20	...	...
Safety Fund	279.40	294.20	+ 0.90	.
Growth Fund	293.00	308.50	+ 3.20	...
Opportunity Fd	295.10	310.70	+ 3.10	...
Cash Fund	190.40	200.50	+ 0.10	...
European Fund	463.90	488.40	+ 6.20	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	235.30	247.70	- 0.60	..
Index-Linked Fd	201.30	211.90	- 0.20	..
International Fd	324.60	341.70	+ 4.10	..
North American	317.30	334.00	+ 2.30	...
Property Fund	133.00	140.10	...	...
UK Equity	330.30	347.70	+ 4.70	.
UK Smaller	347.20	365.50	- 2.40	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA				
0131 556 9181				
Mixed	341.80	359.90	+ 2.50	..
Equity	385.10	405.50	+ 2.00	...
International	310.30	326.70	+ 4.50	...
Property	249.70	262.90	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	*270.80*	*285.10*	- 1.40	...
Index Linked	201.50	212.30	- 0.80	..
Cash	202.90	213.70	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1003.60	1067.70	+ 7.50	...
Cash Fund	370.10	390.00	+ 0.40	..
Property Fund	323.30	340.70	+ 0.40	..
Equity Fund	1058.10	1125.70	+13.30	..
Fxd Interest Fund	552.30	582.00	- 5.30	...
International	438.20	466.20	+ 6.70	.
High Income	940.80	1000.90	+ 7.90	...
Far East	569.60	606.00	+ 8.70	...
North American	731.00	777.70	- 0.30	...
Special Sits	915.30	973.80	- 2.10	...
Technology	928.10	987.40	- 5.10	..
Extra Income Fd	506.30	538.70	+ 4.60	...
Gilt Fund	542.50	577.20	+ 0.30	...
European	192.90	205.30	+ 2.10	...
Adventurous Mg	253.20	266.90	+ 1.80	..
Secure Mgd	179.80	189.50	+ 0.30	..
Equity Inc Dist	141.10	148.70	+ 0.90	4.04
Managed Dist	124.70	131.50	- 1.10	4.67
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	426.10	453.30	+ 3.10	...
North America	454.80	483.90	+ 5.20	..
Far East Fund	561.60	597.50	+10.80	..
Global Managed	561.80	597.70	+ 6.70	.
Deposit Fund	249.50	262.70	+ 0.20	..
Prime Residential	141.80	149.30	...	...
European Fund	352.00	374.50	+ 2.90	..
Fixed Interest	63.20	67.20	- 0.10	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU				
0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1250.40	1250.40	+ 7.70	...
Inv Pol 2	1129.60	1189.20	+ 7.30	.
Inv Pol 3	1066.90	1123.20	+ 7.00	...
Inv Cash	*347.10*	365.50	+ 0.50	...
Mixed Fund	561.60	591.30	+ 2.70	...
Equity Fund	728.30	766.70	+ 5.90	...
Property Fund	271.40	285.80	+ 0.20	...
International Fd	557.80	587.30	+ 6.30	..
Fixed Interest Fd	*435.10*	*458.10*	- 3.00	..
Indexed Stock Fd	222.40	234.20	- 0.80	...
Cash Fund	251.00	264.30	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace,				
Southampton SO9 7BX				
01703 334411				
Managed Acc	485.50	511.00	+ 5.20	...
Equity Acc	*625.10*	*658.00*	+ 9.30	...
International Acc	373.80	393.40	+11.80	...
Property	241.90	254.60	+ 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road,				
Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	294.70	310.30	+ 0.30	..
Equity	1376.40	1448.90	+15.60	..
European	207.20	218.20	+ 0.70	...
Far East	167.80	176.70	+ 1.60	...
Fixed Interest	457.90	482.00	- 2.40	..
Index Linked	237.10	249.60	- 0.70	...
International	675.10	710.70	+ 6.60	...
Managed	885.60	932.30	+ 8.20	...
Nth American	195.70	206.10	+ 2.40	...
Property	402.60	423.80	+ 0.60	...
Pensions				
Cash	473.20	498.20	+ 0.50	...
Equity	2122.30	2234.00	+26.60	...
European	275.00	289.50	+ 1.10	...
Far East	132.90	139.90	+ 1.40	...
Fixed Interest	657.30	691.90	- 3.90	...
Index Linked	334.20	351.80	- 1.30	...
International	1020.50	1074.30	+ 5.80	...
Managed	1326.30	1396.20	+13.20	...
Nth American	264.20	278.20	+ 4.20	...
Property	*585.70*	*616.60*	*+ 1.00*	...
Stock Exchange	299.10	314.90	+ 3.20	...
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex				
01403 232323				
Managed Fund	866.20	911.80	+ 7.00	...
Equity Fund	1202.10	1265.40	+15.60	..
Fixed Interest Fd	471.80	496.70	- 2.70	..
Index-Linked Fd	357.70	376.60	- 1.40	...
Property Fund	565.10	594.90	+ 1.60	...
International Fd	795.90	837.80	+ 1.20	...
N American Fd	363.20	382.40	+ 1.10	...
Far East Fund	237.70	250.20	+ 1.90	...
Deposit Fund	329.60	347.00	+ 0.30	...
Intnl Bd 2	£108.90	...	+ 0.70	..
Worldwide Bond	166.20	175.00	.	..
European	248.00	261.10	+ 2.10	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	874.30	920.40	+ 9.60	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	579.70	610.30	+166.10	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	661.70	..	+ 1.80	...
-do- Acc 1	612.10	...	+ 1.70	...
Agricultural Fd 1	914.90	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc 1	872.10	...	+ 0.60	..
Abbey Nat Fd 1	489.10	.	+ 0.90	..
Abbey Nat Acc 1	512.20	..	+ 0.90	.
Investment Fd 1	465.30	.	+ 3.70	..
Investment (A) 1	444.90	...	+ 3.50	...
Equity 1	1769.50	...	+22.00	...
Equity Acc 1	1684.80	...	+20.90	...
Money Fund 1	531.40	..	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	505.30	...	+ 0.40	.
Actuarial Fd 1	760.40	...	+ 5.90	.
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	444.70	.	- 2.40	.
-do- Acc 1	444.70	...	- 2.40	.
Retire Annuity 1	1386.80	...		..
Immed Annuity 1	301.00	..	...	...
Bldg Soc Life 1	250.10		+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ				
Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	1857.20	...	...	..
Managed Acc 1	1052.40	...	- 1.30	...
Equity Account 1	1596.10	...	- 5.80	..
Mngd Fund Acc	478.40	503.60	+ 0.70	...
Equity Fund Acc	688.40	724.70	+ 2.70	..
Prop Fund Acc	287.70	302.80	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Int Fd Acc	364.10	383.30	+ 2.90	..
Money Fund Acc	242.30	255.00	+ 0.30	..
Indx-Lnk Ses Ac	227.60	239.60	+ 1.30	...
Pens Pens Acc 1	2410.10	...	+28.90	.
Pens Mngd Acct	1120.00	1179.00	+14.10	..
Pens Guarantee	304.80	320.90	+ 0.60	..
Pens Equity	455.40	479.40	+ 7.00	...
Pens Property	335.40	353.10	+ 0.60	...
Pens Fixed Int	352.40	371.00	+ 2.60	...
Pens Intl	289.60	304.80	+ 3.70	..
Pens Money	267.60	281.70	+ 0.30	..
Pens Indx-Lnkd	222.30	234.00	+ 0.50	..
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL				
0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1103.20	1161.30	+11.60	..
Property Acc	413.30	435.10	+ 1.60	...
Equity Acc	1931.10	2032.80	+23.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	472.60	497.50	- 3.40	...
Cash Acc	342.90	361.00	+ 0.30	..
Amer Equity Acc	522.70	550.30	+ 4.40	...
Japan Acc	236.80	249.30	+ 9.20	..
Pacific Acc	393.40	414.20	+ 1.10	..
Far Eastern Acc	813.20	856.10	+11.90	...
International Acc	676.00	711.60	+11.50	...
Distribution Fund	312.00	328.50	- 0.70	5.71
European	236.00	248.50	+ 2.60	...
Delfrd Dist	205.20	216.00	+ 0.20	..
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE				
01264 345678				
Managed Fund	352.00	370.60	+ 4.10	...
Property Fund	236.40	248.90	...	...
Fixed Interest Fd	255.40	269.00	- 0.90	...
Money Fund	220.20	231.80	+ 0.20	..
Equity Fund	471.70	496.60	+ 6.60	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire				
01952 292929				
Managed Bond	891.10	938.00	+ 7.00	...
Money Fund	349.00	367.30	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	841.90	886.20	+ 8.40	.
Fixed Interest	321.90	338.80	- 3.00	...
Property Fund	407.20	428.60	+ 1.40	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	648.80	683.70	- 8.00	...
Income	958.10	1009.60	+ 6.80	...
International Gth	701.10	738.80	- 3.70	...
Capital Fund	824.30	868.60	+ 3.50	...
Recovery Fund	612.40	645.30	+14.80	..
Japan & General	207.10	218.20	+ 6.90	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	19.85	20.90	+ 0.01	...
Bear	24.41	25.69	+ 0.11	...
Owl	27.72	29.18	+ 0.20	..
Bull	22.88	24.08	+ 0.17	..
Stag	23.98	25.24	+ 0.13	..
Gilt Edged	21.32	22.44	- 0.21	...
Deposit	17.18	18.08	+ 0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	27.84	29.31	- 0.03	...
Bear	35.61	37.48	+ 0.21	..
Owl	39.94	42.04	+ 0.37	..
Bull	31.05	32.68	+ 0.28	...
Stag	32.26	33.96	+ 0.19	.
Gilt Edged	27.98	29.45	- 0.34	..
Deposit	22.91	24.12	+ 0.02	..
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund 1		754.10	+ 5.63	..
1982 Series				
UK Equity	467.55	492.14	+ 4.63	...
N Amer Equity	365.98	385.24	+ 1.97	...
Far East Equity	396.48	417.35	+ 4.79	..
Fixed	339.92	357.81	- 3.23	..
Cash Deposit	225.27	237.13	+ 0.18	..
Property	173.50	182.63	+ 0.58	...
Special Opp	463.33	487.72	+ 2.66	...
Managed	396.42	417.28	+ 3.06	...
Index-Linked Fd	210.80	221.89	- 1.04	.
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	743.40	782.50	+ 5.70	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	427.20	449.60	- 4.10	.
Life Equity Acc	1111.50	1165.30	+10.90	...
Life Money Acc	328.40	345.60	+ 0.20	..
Life Inv Tst Acc	975.90	1024.00	+ 7.60	...
Life Intl Acc	555.70	582.60	+ 4.90	...
Life High Inc Acc	1041.00	1092.90	+18.20	..
Life Property Acc	273.50	287.80	+ 0.90	...
Brewin Equity	888.60	935.30	+ 3.60	..

هكذا من الاعلى

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Service pay is 'abated' to fund pensions

Kate Bartholomew was penalised by the 1978 ruling

From Col. (Retd) P.S. Newton
Sir, Congratulations on your article "Wrong Side of the Date", April 12, about Kate Bartholomew and those widows of post-retirement marriages to ex-servicemen prior to April 6, 1978 who are denied a widows pension.

A serviceman's pay is "abated" as a notional contribution to his pension scheme and it is scandalous that their widows should not receive a pension because they retired before April 6, 1978.

Most of the surviving ex-servicemen involved served during the Second World War and are *terrified of* dying because their wives will lose their service pension when they do.

The *compulsory* abatement of a serviceman's pay must be acknowledged as the serviceman's contribution to a *future pension* for himself and his widow.

There is hardly a pension scheme in the country, including Members of Parliament, *nor among our* allied forces, which persists in so archaic a restriction.

Yours faithfully,
PIP NEWTON,
"Fairviews",
56 Quarry Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.

From Mrs E. Marshall
Sir, I was very interested in reading Jenny Grove's report. My husband died in 1995 after 50 years of marriage. He joined the Navy in 1935, served 35 years and was promoted to Lieutenant-Commander. He always felt bitterly disappointed knowing that on his death I would only be granted one third of *his pension! We all want to provide for ourselves*, so we can spend the last years in our own homes. A realisation is also called for that the *discussion about the elderly* widows, should not be conducted solely in economic and financial terms. The elderly have their own specific *and peculiar problems*. Making them feel as if they are a burden on the country *is equal to giving them* a shove towards a desperate end! It is miserly repayment for the efforts they made *when they were able to*.

The Government, after years of not giving a fig to what extent its attitude towards "Armed Forces Pensions" and their families was now affecting the situation — realised that some realistic *thinking* must be done. A victory for 52,000 elderly widows who still only receive a third-rate pension would do *much for the next Prime* Minister's image!

Yours faithfully,
E. MARSHALL,
47 Chestnut Avenue,
Bedhampton,
Hampshire.

From Mr H. Quinlan
Sir, The hardship suffered by war widows whose *husbands retired or died prior to* March 1973 is compounded by the refusal of the Government to allow this rapidly *dwindling number of* pensioners to make the required contribution to bring their pensions up from one third to one *half*.

Having voted themselves a liberal increase in salary with automatic pension rights for themselves and their widows, the *members* of the House of Commons show a lamentable lack of consideration for the *hardship and injustice to a category* of pensioners who deserve better.

The estimate of £29 million *a year quoted by the Minister* for the Armed Forces presumably has not been intensively costed and does not include the amount of the "buy-in" element to those who are at present excluded from bringing their pensions up to the present level.

Yours faithfully,
H. QUINLAN,
White Bridge,
Redlands Lane,
Crondall, Farnham,
Surrey.

Loyalty misplaced

From Mr A.F. Endicott
Sir, I am not at all surprised that Mr J. Drummond (Rule Britannia, Weekend Money Letter, April 19) was disappointed with his Britannia loyalty bonus, which is in fact completely mis-named.

When this scheme was introduced, Britannia sent out a points "ready reckoner" which made it perfectly obvious that the scheme was totally biased against long standing deposit holders in favour of borrowers and purchasers of products such as unit trusts and insurance. I immediately withdrew *most* of a substantial sum in a Capital Trust account leaving sufficient only to ensure entitlement to my future windfall which I believe to be still on the cards, possibly from a takeover.

My recommendation to Britannia depositors would be to use *their funds to cover other* possible windfall societies, of which there is still a fair number. This could prove a far more profitable strategy.

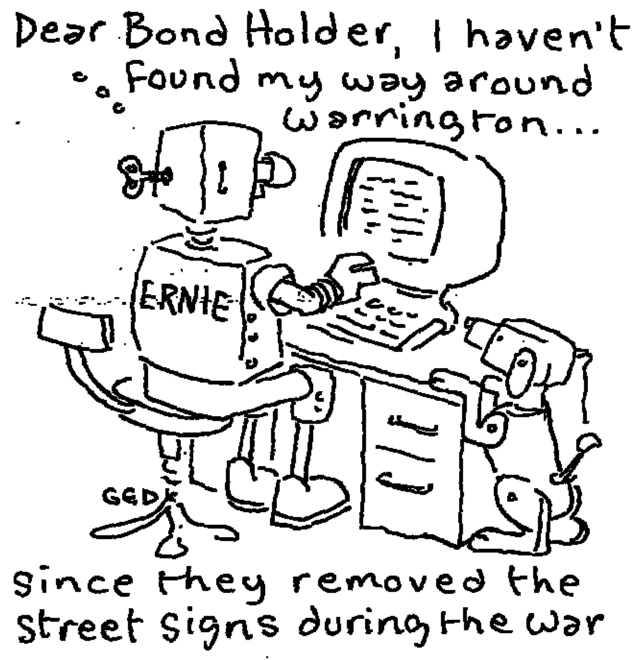
Yours faithfully,
A. ENDICOTT,
The Lodge,
Erwarton, Ipswich.

Prizeless in Warrington

From Mr F.P. Taylor
Sir, Following the success of a letter in your columns diverting Ernie's attention to Strathclyde, may I use them to draw to his notice my wife's predicament?

She won a £10 and a £1 premium bond in the early 1960s. Neither has yet yielded a single prize. May we hope that this letter produces similar results?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL TAYLOR,
7 Kingsway,
Frodsham,
Warrington.


Dear Bond Holder, I haven't found my way around Warrington...
ERNIE
GED
Since they removed the street signs during the war

Unfriendly move

From Mr S.M. Gold
Sir, Insurance companies do *nothing to reduce the image* that they delay payments to the last moment.

I had a 20-year policy with the Friends Provident *maturing on April 1, 1997*. With my application, I gave them my bank details and asked them to transfer the proceeds (a not insubstantial five-figure sum) and believed that they would use the bank's auto crediting system.

I should not have been surprised, however, when I received a letter saying that a cheque had been sent to my bank and I should allow a few more days for it to clear. I calculate that this saved the insurers £35. If you multiply this by the number of claims on maturing policies, the loss to the insurer's customers *must run into tens of millions* of pounds each year.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLD,
Allied Manufacturing Co. (London) Ltd,
Sarena House,
Grove Park,
Colindale,
NW9.

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE FOR?

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	**6·40%** GROSS P.A.	✓
BRITANNIA	6.00% GROSS P.A.	
NATIONWIDE	6.20% GROSS P.A.	
HALIFAX	5.60% GROSS P.A.	
WOOLWICH	5.40% GROSS P.A.	
ABBEY NATIONAL	5.00% GROSS P.A.	

It may be decision time, but there's really no contest.

Our new account, Platinum Plus, offers outstanding interest rates. On amounts of £2,500 or more its rates cannot be beaten by any top ten building society branch based notice account*.

So, if you're looking for a candidate which stands out from the rest, visit your local Alliance & Leicester branch today.

We are sure you'll agree that our Platinum Plus account is worthy of your vote. For details of your nearest Alliance & Leicester branch, call 0800 412 214.

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

Terms and conditions: * Source Blay's Guides. Comparison correct as at 23 April 1997, and is limited to rates available on that date alone. Comparison is on the basis that withdrawal terms and conditions vary from account to account, and include any bonuses, and are for the best paying branch based UK high street notice accounts from the providers referred to. Interest rates shown are for balances of £100,000. Interest rates quoted are variable and gross. For the Platinum Plus Account withdrawals are allowed after 90 days' notice, or immediately subject to 90 days' loss of interest on the amount withdrawn. Minimum opening balance £2,500. Interest paid annually or monthly on request. Different interest rates apply to monthly interest. The interest rate bonus of 0.50% gross p.a. will be payable providing no withdrawals or transfers have been made during the 12 months prior to the anniversary of the account being opened. The rate of 6.40% gross p.a. shown includes this bonus. Interest will be payable net of income tax at the rate determined by the Inland Revenue (currently 20%), or subject to the required registration gross. Additional tax will be payable if you are a higher rate taxpayer. Interest is calculated daily from the day following receipt, up to and including the day before withdrawal, except for cheques where it is calculated from the fourth banking day following receipt (Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays are not banking days). Maximum investment with Alliance & Leicester is £500,000 per individual. Full terms and conditions available on request. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London, W1Y 4EQ, Company No: 3263713. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers Association.

CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT ?
IT'S EASY TO GET MORE
We regularly pay up to 30% MORE* than the surrender value for with profits endowment and whole life policies.
Life Company Offered £16,311
Policy Portfolio Price £21,100
*For policies which are at least 5 years old and have a surrender value greater than £2,000.
Don't lose out - contact Policy Portfolio Plc today.
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
POLICY PORTFOLIO
TEL: 0181 343 4567 Lines Open 24 Hours - 7 Days a week
Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU

BIGGER CASH PAYMENTS FOR ENDOWMENTS!
CALL 0181 207 1666.
The UK's biggest buyer pays top prices for policies.
Your policy must be at least 8 years old and satisfy our selection criteria.
FAX: 0181 207 4950
SEC
SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC
SEC House, 49 Theobald St., Borehamwood, Herts WD6 4RZ.

Cheshire Guernsey Limited is licensed under the Banking Supervision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1994 amended, conducts business only in Guernsey and has paid up capital of £5 million. Deposits are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the U.K. Banking Act 1987. Cheshire Building Society has given an undertaking to discharge any liabilities of Cheshire Guernsey Limited if it is unable to meet out of its own assets, whilst it remains a subsidiary of Cheshire Building Society. Interest accumulates three working days after cheques are received. †It is your responsibility to declare all interest received to your tax authority. *Source, Moneyfacts 10.4 1997

BEST RATES OFFSHORE FOR INSTANT ACCESS*

If you are looking for the highest rates and instant access without penalty then take a look at the new Instant Offshore Account from Cheshire Guernsey Limited. Backed by the Cheshire, a top 20 building society, Instant Offshore pays you gross interest which allows you to enjoy substantial cashflow and tax planning benefits.†

NEW
UP TO 6.75% GROSS

INTEREST PAID GROSS
INSTANT ACCESS
NO PENALTY FOR WITHDRAWALS

Investment	Annual Interest Rate Gross
£250,000+	6.75%
£100,000+	6.65%
£50,000+	6.55%
£25,000+	6.30%
£10,000+	6.10%

The account is easy to operate by post and is available to both expatriate and UK investors.

Invest right away with £10,000 or more. Call us any time between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or simply complete and return the coupon to the address shown below.

BEST BUY*
CHESHIRE GUERNSEY LIMITED
FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL US ON 01481-726 885
OR POST THE COUPON TO: Cheshire Guernsey Limited, P.O. Box 229, Canada Court, Upland Rd, St. Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 3NZ

TT 26/04
Please tick appropriate box: To open an account ☐ For further information ☐
To open your account by post please complete this coupon and enclose it with your cheque, payable to Cheshire Guernsey Limited., Account (your name). An application form will be sent by return for completion.
I/We enclose £ ______ (min £10,000, max £1million) for investment in an Instant Offshore Account.
NAME(S) ______
ADDRESS ______
______ POSTCODE ______
______ SIGNATURE(S) ______
TEL ______

Cashing in your Endowment Policy?
More than money.
Market leading prices and service with a free 48 hour quote.
London/South: 01621 851133
Midlands: 0121 709 2500
North: 0113 239 1941
Scotland: 0141 353 0311
Call today, lines always open.
Please quote TT01XS
Beale Dobie & Company Limited.
Fullbridge Mill, Maldon, Essex CM9 5FN
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
Beale Dobie
A Member of the Hambro Insurance Services Group PLC

DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES	
Direct Line Instant Access Account	
BALANCE	ANNUAL GROSS RATE
£1–£4,999	4.50%
£5,000–£9,999	5.00%
£10,000–£24,999	5.60%
£25,000–£49,999	5.75%
£50,000–£99,999	6.00%
£100,000+	6.10%
MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	6.31%
APR	6.5%

All rates correct at 18th April 1997.

DIRECT LINE FINANCIAL SERVICES
0181 649 9099 MORTGAGES
0181 667 1121 SAVINGS
www.directline.co.uk. Savings: ITV Teletext page 377. A Royal Bank of Scotland company.
Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. TTBB2

Mortgages and savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. For savings the gross rate is the rate paid without deduction of income tax and is based on annual payment of interest. For mortgages life assurance to cover the amount of the loan and security in the form of a first legal charge (Standard Security – Scotland) over the property will be required. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £300,000 are available for up to 90% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is the lower. Written quotations available on request. Offers subject to status. All rates quoted above are variable.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

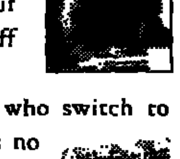
For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission

PLAIN SPEAKING HOME INSURANCE

"Renew your home insurance in May or June and save around £100"

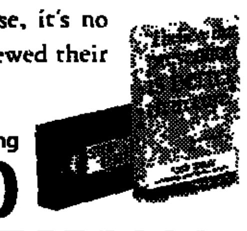
UP TO £25 OFF BUILDINGS INSURANCE
UP TO 32% OFF CONTENTS INSURANCE

Switch your buildings insurance from your mortgage lender to Prudential and we'll give you £25 off your first year's buildings premium.



What's more, if you take out combined buildings and contents insurance, you'll receive a 15% discount off your contents premium. And if you're aged 45 or over, then there's up to 20% off your buildings and contents premiums.

In fact, the average saving for customers who switch to Prudential is £100. With savings like these, it's no wonder that over 90% of our customers renewed their policies with us last year.



For a free quote and a free home security video ring
0800 300 300
PRUDENTIAL

Lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday and 10am to 2pm Sunday.
For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded
Please note, in some cases we may not be able to provide a quote. Please quote reference PRS 061.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	736.40	783.50	+11.20	2.27
General Inc	810.10	849.10	+ 9.30	2.27
UK Growth Acc	510.30	542.90	+ 7.10	2.41
UK Growth Inc	326.20	347.10	+ 4.60	2.41
Higher Inc Acc	908.60	966.70	+ 7.30	3.92
Higher Inc Inc	476.70	507.20	+ 3.90	3.92
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	214.50	228.60	- 0.40	5.59
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.61	96.76	- 0.17	5.59
Nth America	346.70	368.80	+ 4.00	
Europe	395.00	420.30	+ 5.60	0.30
Brit Excell	100.50	107.00	+ 1.40	2.51
Brit Fndmtls Acc	127.10	135.30	+ 0.50	4.66
Brit Fndmtls Inc	83.88	89.24	+ 0.36	4.66
Global Opps	103.60	110.30	+ 1.10	0.11
Balanced Acc	66.84	71.11	+ 0.67	2.30
Balanced Inc	61.83	65.78	+ 0.62	2.30
Japan Acc	38.59	41.06	+ 1.26	
Pac Basin Acc	379.10	403.30	+ 1.80	1.06
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.70	139.80†	- 0.90	6.66
High Inc Equity	196.30	209.90†	+ 0.50	4.62
Worldwide Bond	263.00	278.90	+ 0.40	4.31
American Growth	417.60	446.50	+ 6.80	0.37
Asian Pacific	319.90	342.10	+ 4.00	0.40
Assets & Earnings	320.90	343.20	+ 1.50	2.75
Euro Capital Acc	203.60	217.80	+ 3.50	0.94
Extra Inc	43.08	45.83†	+ 0.34	7.99
General	290.20	308.70	+ 1.20	2.98
Global Opps	74.13	78.86	+ 0.58	0.51
Japan	89.62	95.85	+ 2.74	
Managed Inc	49.27	52.42†	+ 0.18	4.29
Mastertrust	175.40	187.60	+ 2.00	1.28
US Emerging Cos	169.30	181.10	+ 0.20	
Ethical	87.32	92.89	- 0.19	1.70
International	138.00	146.80	+ 2.30	0.59
Dividend & Growth	73.31	77.99	+ 0.28	4.31
Global Gwth & Sec	75.43	80.49	+ 0.19	2.51
Latin America	82.27	87.52	+ 1.90	0.45
Capital Reserve	148.50	148.50		4.71
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	98.33	104.60	+ 1.50	2.28
Equity Income	138.10	146.90	+ 1.50	4.08
Extra Income	268.20	285.30	+ 3.50	6.32
Smaller Cos	112.30	119.30†	- 1.90	1.49
International	117.50	124.90†	+ 1.80	1.40
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2537.00	2636.00	-11.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	63.12	65.48†	+ 1.02	
Emerging Mkts	77.58	80.60	+ 0.77	0.04
European	164.30	170.60	+ 1.00	
Extra Income #	51.77	54.49†	+ 0.51	5.97
Far East Emg Ecn	126.70	132.90	+ 0.60	0.47
Fixed Interest #	26.76	27.83	+ 0.01	8.73
Fund Inv Tst #	163.00	171.00†	- 0.70	9.71
Japan	159.80	166.00	+ 7.60	
Latin American	70.34	73.21	+ 1.55	0.66
Pacific	80.07	84.05†	+ 1.08	0.31
Property Share	81.95	86.04	+ 0.30	2.04
UK Emerging Cos	72.86	76.76	+ 0.31	1.22
UK Growth	59.74	62.21†	+ 1.11	1.89
Aber World Port #	85.28	88.30	+ 0.94	2.82
Ethical	82.50	85.80	+ 0.94	2.06
Aberdeen Gth Inc #	50.15	50.20†	- 0.15	7.36
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 258 5888				
Resdl Property #	99.93	106.30	.	5.34
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	98.13	104.12†	+ 0.53	1.94
Income Builder Inc	86.86	92.40	+ 0.88	3.79
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	156.49	168.27	- 0.13	0.78
UK Equity	104.09	111.11†	+ 1.07	3.22
UK Equity & Bd	61.45	65.13	+ 0.22	8.19
UK Smlr Cos	54.66	58.46	- 0.13	1.61
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	819.86	832.26	+11.71	4.13
Inv Fd Acc	819.86	832.26	+11.71	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	156.66	157.28	+ 0.93	9.09
Fxd Int Sec Acc	156.66	157.28	+ 0.93	..
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	814.88	827.20	+14.19	4.18
Investment Acc	138.42	139.00	+67.10	..
Fixed Int Inc	136.75	137.25	+ 0.55	9.11
Fixed Int Acc	241.11	242.07	+ 1.04	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	84.76	89.36	- 0.12	5.61
Beck Bio-Tech	36.87	40.18	- 0.86	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	187.94	197.35	+ 1.04	0.43
City Fin Assets	80.72	84.76†	+ 0.44	1.82
City Fin Intl	88.65	93.09†	+ 0.78	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	321.59	342.12	+ 1.39	2.32
Buckley Wrld Grth	140.26	148.67†	+ 0.75	...
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	60.05	63.06	+ 0.38	3.29
Shaw Utilities	66.62	68.24	.	6.49
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.46	64.15	+ 0.78	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	79.33	84.39	+ 0.29	0.11
Dragon Growth	70.26	75.14	+ 0.92	0.41
Equity High Inc	99.44	105.22	+ 1.10	3.71
-do- Accum	145.78	154.26	+ 1.62	3.71
Extra Income Inc	26.68	28.08†	- 0.11	7.20
Extra Income Acc	30.21	31.80	- 0.10	7.20
European Gwth	68.46	72.44	+ 0.95	0.26
Evergreen	30.91	33.05	+ 0.30	...
General Equity	116.76	123.23	+ 1.38	2.61
Japan Growth	38.18	40.62	+ 1.73	.
Pedigree Gwth	69.54	73.58	+ 0.58	2.06
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.75	44.18	+ 0.13	1.17
-do- Accum	44.51	47.10	+ 0.14	1.17
Retirement Inc #	30.35	32.29	+ 0.35	5.51
Special Sits	50.79	54.61	+ 0.04	2.73
UK & Overseas	63.24	66.92	+ 0.94	0.87
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 890 000				
Balanced	74.76	77.87	+ 0.97	3.97
Capital	90.00	93.74	+ 0.90	2.35
High Income	52.82	55.02	- 0.41	6.72
Top 50	62.22	64.81	+ 1.01	2.46
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0161 886 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	205.69	214.28†	+ 3.43	4.29
Long Gilt	43.52	45.32†	- 0.56	6.26
Monthly Inc Plus	51.48	53.63†	- 0.37	8.35
Preference Share	48.59	50.61†	- 1.23	7.70
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	149.56	155.81†	+ 0.84	5.48
Managed Fund	79.14	82.45†	+ 0.86	2.69
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	55.34	57.65†	- 0.17	1.65
-do- Accum	66.18	68.94†	- 0.20	1.65
UK & General	105.73	110.15†	+ 1.45	2.74
-do- Accum	140.17	146.03†	+ 1.93	2.74
UK Growth	213.56	222.47†	+ 2.53	1.26
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	229.42	239.00†	+ 3.23	0.61
Far Eastern Gth	126.55	131.84†	+ 2.14	0.02
Global Bond	72.85	75.89†	+ 0.24	6.53
Japan Growth	94.40	98.34†	+ 2.86	.
North Amer Grth	252.55	263.10†	+ 2.81	..
Oriental Growth	83.11	86.58†	+ 1.24	0.27
Worldwide Growth	74.39	77.50†	+ 0.98	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.71	91.71†	+ 0.07	5.54

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
New Japan	76.76	81.03	+ 2.74	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	173.40	184.40	- 7.50	.
Income #	241.85	257.28	- 0.38	4.03
UK Growth	94.06	100.06	- 0.68	1.85
Intl Growth	90.85	96.65	+ 1.18	0.58
Ecology	111.28	118.38†	- 0.28	0.88
European	228.81	243.41	+ 1.14	0.21
Far Eastern	308.70	328.30	+ 1.50	
UK Special Sits	59.76	63.76†	- 0.54	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.20	59.94	+ 0.37	
High Income #	54.76	58.41†	+ 0.63	4.79

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	110.23	117.25†	+ 0.92	0.53
Intl Bond	62.56	66.71	+ 0.18	4.96
Intl Equity Growth	87.34	92.80	+ 1.55	0.61
N Amer Growth	143.80	152.74†	+ 0.77	0.85
Special Sits Growth	30.70	32.65†	- 0.41	2.09
UK Growth	502.32	534.38†	+ 8.45	2.52
-do- Accum	700.72	745.44	+11.80	2.52
NM JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1483.40	1506.20	+16.90	2.30
Income #	1080.30	1096.60	+12.40	4.50

REGISTER NOW FOR
1997/98 APPLICATION FORMS

SAVE up to 5% on PEPs

THE PEP DISCOUNT DIRECTORY

This 27 page A4 guide is ESSENTIAL reading for all PEP investors. It lists performance & charges as well as the discounts we can offer on hundreds of Unit Trust PEPs. If you want to obtain up to £300 discount/cashback on a full PEP. Send for details TODAY.

CHECK YOUR PEPS ARE PERFORMING
CHECK THEIR CHARGES ARE COMPETITIVE
NEW SPRING EDITION
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON REGULAR SAVINGS PEPS AND TRANSFERS

Normally £3, currently available FREE of charge
FOR A FREE COPY PLEASE CALL FREE ON
0800 850 663

Issued by
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD
Kendal House, 4 Brighton Mews, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2NX
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.30	104.50†	- 0.50	7.06
Euro Ptr Inc	109.70	116.70	+ 0.70	2.75
-do- Accum	109.70	116.70	+ 0.70	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.80	125.30†	- 1.20	6.45
Global Income	238.00	253.20	+ 2.70	3.15
High Yield	173.20	184.30†	+ 4.70	5.06
-do- Accum	584.20	621.50†	+16.30	5.06
Money Market	99.60	99.60†	+ 0.08	5.36
Smlr Cos Div	67.13	71.41	+ 0.51	3.62
Tomorrows Co Er Acc	10.40	10.55	+ 0.18	3.40

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	178.80	182.30†	.	3.40
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363422				
High Inc #	96.01	98.98	+ 0.29	6.78
M & S Inv Ptflo	187.70	193.50	+ 1.50	2.40
-do- Accum	225.00	231.90	+ 1.80	2.40
UK Sel Ptflo	171.30	176.60	+ 2.00	2.37
-do- Accum	208.60	215.00	+ 2.40	2.37
UK 100 Cos	129.60	129.60†	+ 2.20	2.49
-do- Accum	132.80	132.80†	+ 2.20	2.49

هكذا من ١٩٩٧

Shares close off day's lows

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
480	407½	Allied Domecq	433½	-4	6.8	13.1
626	545	Bulmer (HP)	545	-7½	3.1	16.2
75½	57½	Burn Stewart	60		7.1	14.9
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	956	-35	1.6	26.0
516½	425½	Grand Met	508	+½	3.9	16.4
520	424	Guinness†	513½	-3	3.9	14.6
380	329	Highland Dist	333½	-½	3.1	15.5
336	257	Matthew Clark	307½		10.4	13.7
109½	90½	Merydew W	90½		6.4	12.2
1978¾	1462½	SA Breweries	1818¾	-6¼	1.9	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706¾	3671¼	ABN-AMRO	4209¾	-40¾	2.7	17.5
829	710	Abbey Nat†	816½	-9	4.0	14.5
576	532½	Alliance & Leic	554	-½	3.7	13.6
455½	388¾	Allied Irish	438	-2½	4.1	
409½	383½	Aus New Z	385½	+1	4.9	
7678¾	5753½	Bank America	6578¼	-46¼		
373½	291½	Bank Scotland	352½	-4½	3.0	10.9
1226	978½	Barclays†	1088½	-19	3.6	11.0
651	517½	Bk of Ireland	646½	-1	3.2	14.6
7890¾	6006½	Citicorp	6421¼	+28¾		
1731¼	1268¾	Commerzbk	1668¾	+3¾	2.6	
862½	559¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	650	-18½	0.6	..
3490¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3209¾	-28¾	2.0	
1031¼	758¾	Espirito Santo	1031¼	+140¾	3.3	14.5
872½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	667	-15½	0.6	
1622	1272½	HSBC†	1563½	-18½	3.3	13.5
1563½	1241	HSBC HK†	1504	-20½	3.4	13.0
605	483½	Irish Perm†	573½	+1½	2.8	
567	424	Lloyds TSB†	557	+5	3.0	18.0
819½	669¾	Nat Aust Bk	816¾	+2¾	5.0	11.0
744½	663½	Nat West†	710	-11	5.1	10.7
632½	500	Royal Bk Scot	598½	-8	4.2	12.4
923½	681	Stand Chart†	913	-10½	2.0	16.4
£164¼	£154¾	Wells Fargo	£164¼		1.9	
374¾	315½	Westpac	333½	+1	4.0	10.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	781½	Bass	795	+5	3.9	15.7
68¼	51½	Bk for the Bds A	52		4.2	14.3
205	170½	Burtonwood Brw	175	-1½	4.0	15.7
155½	134	City Centre Rest	134	-5	2.4	
744½	612½	Compass Gp	681	+10½	1.6	27.0
290½	250	Eldridge P 'A'	278½		2.4	17.1
485	435	Fuller Sm A'	480		2.4	16.0
586	508½	Greenalls Gp	510	-½	3.8	16.0
750	643	Greene King	696½	-½	2.9	17.2
237½	164½	Grosvenor Inns	206	+11	3.7	19.9
285	218½	Groupe Chez Gerr	250	+4½	1.5	24.5
298½	277½	Hardy Hanson	284½		4.7	12.9
2875	2700	Hall J	2812½		2.7	
78	63½	Inn Business	67½		2.9	
357	343	Mansfield	352½		2.2	16.2
315½	252	Marston Thmp	283½	-1½	3.3	10.6

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465½	387½	Electrocomps	401½	-10	2.2	24.3
226½	132½	Eurodis Elec	132½	-1	4.7	18.9
85¼	76½	European Mtr	84½		7.0	9.6
263	220	Evans Halshaw	234	-2½	8.8	
53½	41	Fife Indmatt	42½		9.7	8.5
397½	322½	Fairey Grp	350		2.1	17.8
34½	26½	Gardiner	28½		4.2	10.9
79½	57½	Glenchewton	67		2.5	13.1
110	82½	Gowrings†	106½		3.5	24.2
103	82	Hamlet	99	-1½	7.9	9.0
267½	238½	Hanns (Philip)	242½		4.5	14.8
320½	284½	Headlam	305		2.4	
156	145	Helders Tech†	147½		5.5	
240½	209	ISA Int	235½		1.5	16.6
285	240½	Inchcape†	273½	-3½	4.8	16.7
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	62½	+2	4.6	
246½	214½	Kwik-Fit	233	-½	3.0	16.7
367	316½	Lex Service	353½	-8	5.7	11.7
122	102	Lookers†	104½		9.6	7.0
15¼	11	Malaya Grpt	14¼	-½	5.8	12.9
9	5¼	Middlesex	8¼		1.1	13.4
41½	31½	Midsomest	32	+½	1.9	
472	229	Norbain	230	-8	4.3	6.4
166½	131½	Northamber	159		1.1	9.5
352¾	305¾	Partco†	332½		3.0	17.4
404½	342½	Pendragon†	362½	-3½	3.4	16.7
223½	190½	Perry Gp	205		5.6	
751	465	Premier Farnell	485	+½	3.1	18.1
152½	124½	Quicks Group†	133½	+1	6.6	
348	307½	REA	320		1.6	
2½	2	Reece	2		..	23.3
26	18½	Rossrin	20½		9.7	7.1
4	2½	Ross Gp	3			
109½	78½	Ryland	93½		5.4	16.7
39	25½	SEP Ind	27½	-½	8.0	7.4
92½	55	Saltire	67½		2.3	
415½	377½	Time Products	386		3.8	15.8
297½	228	UMECO	297½		2.0	21.3
65	59	United Orcas Gp	65	+3½		14.1
352½	292½	Vardy (Reg)†	332½		2.6	14.6
650	498½	WF Elect	623½	-1½	2.7	22.6
41	31¼	Whishaw	33¼		3.1	10.0
172½	149½	Wyko	146½	-1	2.3	17.1
154½	119½	Young (H)	137½		3.8	11.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	327½	Antofagasta	385		1.7	..
328	283½	Ascot Hldgs	294	-2	2.2	
876	790	Broken Hill	835¼	+2½	2.9	19.0
289	237½	BTR†	251	-2½	4.8	10.8
568	462	BAT†	523½	+4½	6.2	11.1
195½	128	Bibby (J)	188½		5.0	11.0
60½	53¼	Brierley Inv	55	+¼	8.6	9.0
856½	715	Charter†	801	-½	4.6	11.3
266	210½	Cookson†	218	-1½	4.9	13.7
229½	199½	Cosalt	209	+1½	6.3	8.9
314½	255½	DCC	314½	+3½	2.7	12.5
133	115½	Grampian Hdg	122½		6.4	12.6
140½	121½	Harrison Cresd	122	-1	9.6	11.0
509¼	423½	Hutch Whamp	450½	-9¼	2.2	18.6
438½	375	Imperial Tobacco	409	-6½	8.1	8.2
397¼	335½	Jardine Math†	337¼	-11½	4.6	

ELECTRICITY

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
96½	82½	J Fly Euro U	92	+½	6.0	14.6
162¼	119	JF Fledg Jap	132½	-1¼		
108½	92½	Jupiter Ex Inc	101		9.9	9.8
14½	3½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	9½			
86	76½	Jupiter Grd Cap	80½		12.1	10.3
36½	31	Jupiter Grd Pfd	35			
135½	120½	Jupiter Intl Gm	125½	+3½	3.9	
339½	293	Klnwt Chr	328½		2.2	49.0
116½	98½	Klnwt E Mid	110½			
170½	153½	Klnwt End	160½			
95	74	Klnwt H Inc	90½		13.7	9.6
306½	261	Klnwt O'seas†	289		1.8	55.4
188½	171	Klnwt Smlr†	183½		2.5	49.0
387	264½	Korea—Euro	298½	+3½	0.4	
134¼	98½	Latin American	129½	+½		
967	902½	Law Debenture†	945	-½	3.3	28.6
115	103½	Lib Oil Opp	106			
133	122½	Lloyds Sm Cap	130½			
25¼	20¼	Lloyds Sm Dwt	21¼		23.6	5.4
158½	145	Lloyds Sm Pkgt	152½		3.4	
165½	159½	Lon St Laurence†	160½		4.9	25.8
325½	296	Lowland	316		4.4	24.5
700	635	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	700	+5		
85	75½	M&G 2nd Dual In	78½			2.8
35¼	21½	Moorg Wts	31½			
130½	119½	Murray Ent	122½		2.9	35.8
21½	14½	Murray Em Wts	17			
85½	71	Murray Emg Eco	81½		0.6	
21½	14½	Murray Em Ec Wt	17½	-½		
74½	65½	Murray Euro†	74½		0.8	
400½	364	Murray Income	378½		4.6	28.0
463	401½	Murray Intl†	429	+½	3.8	29.7
196½	192½	Murray S/C ZP	196½			

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
419	398½	London Clubs	388	-½	2.5	35.7
231	183½	Macdonald Hts	185½		2.7	20.2
733½	628	Man Utd†	663½	+2	1.0	30.3
91	70½	Mandarin Orntl†	70½		5.5	
412½	347½	Millennium & Cop	378½	-1½	1.6	16.0
263½	191½	Northern	258	-4½	2.6	22.7
188½	117½	Prism Leisure	159½	-½	4.8	8.6
38	29½	Queensborough†	32		7.2	12.5
18½	12½	Queens Moat	13½	-½		9.0
454½	409	Rank Grp	432	-3	4.9	34.4
46½	40½	Ryan Hotels IC	42½		5.1	8.6
1475	1405	Savoy Hotel 'A'†	1417½		1.5	
260½	184½	Sinclair (Wm)†	255	-6½	4.0	14.6
153½	47	Southampton	94	-1	1.3	
110½	96½	Stakis	97	-3	2.8	15.9
320	249½	Stanley Leisure	278½		1.6	27.7
11	6	Tandem	6½			
346	346	Tanjong	346		1.4	22.7
210	169	Thistle Hotels†	189½	-6½	2.7	16.6
142	101½	Timeshare Hol†	105½		0.9	18.1
115½	93½	Toy Options	111		3.9	9.0
280½	234½	VCI†	265½		3.7	
127½	94	Vardon†	124½		1.9	17.8
411	355½	Wembley	373½	-3	0.7	12.1

FREE OFFER

For Every Investor Who Wants To Make Serious Money From The Exciting Penny Share Market

To receive a FREE copy of **PENNY SHARE GUIDE**, Britain's No. 1 publication for tipping exciting smaller company shares PLUS an exclusive FREE market report pack including details of how to claim a FREE copy of 'The Investor's Guide to How the Stock Market Really Works' published by the *Financial Times*/Pitman Publishing, simply . . .

CALL NOW ON
FREEPHONE: 0500 823873

Approved by Fleet Street Publications Ltd. who are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.
Registered Office: 271 Regent Street, London W1R 7PA

The past is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk factor and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. This investment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubts, you should obtain expert advice.

MEDIA

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1750	1431½	Daily Mail	1728½		1.4	28.4
1640¾	1331½	Daily Mail 'A	1575		1.5	25.9
430	245	Dorling Kind†	397½	-1½	1.9	25.1
831½	734	EMAP	757½	+½	1.9	26.2
1410	1085½	EMI	1220	+7½	2.9	29.9
1052½	913½	Elsevier	984½	-10½	2.5	
1450	1400	Euromoney Pb	1425		4.0	19.9
49	37	Filtcht	43½		1.1	12.1
807½	596	Flextech	604	+½		

OTHER FINANCIAL

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
54¾	54½	Reliance Intl	57½		3.0	14.7
144	99½	SEC Group	144	+1	4.1	12.9
445	334	S & U	427½		4.9	10.7
1792½	1500	Schroders†	1567½	-15	1.6	17.1
1577½	1310	Schroders N/V†	1365	-7½	1.8	14.9
545	522½	Secure Trst	540		4.6	17.2
162¼	127½	Singer & Fried	130½	-2	4.2	11.7
46½	37½	[illegible]	38½			
5	2½	Tiz Hldgs	3			
106½	75	Union	77½		2.4	
342½	310	Vantrust	330		4.0	15.5
111½	94½	Lon Scot Bk	100	-½	3.7	17.5
200½	170½	Man ED & F	181½	+½	7.1	8.7
1467½	1097½	M & G	1287½		3.5	21.8
1428½	1172½	MAM	1303½	-7	3.7	21.8
178½	113½	Paragon	148	-3	2.0	7.2
2785	2280	Perpetual	2570		2.8	19.0
612½	500	Provident†	568	-2	3.6	19.4
337	303	Rathbone Brst	315	-1	4.6	12.7
60½	47½	Rea Brothers†	47½	-1	2.6	19.0

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
364½	192	Brit Biotech	244½	+7		
1115	665	Cantab Pharms	987½			
673	470	Celltech	572½	-2½		
443½	312½	Chiroscience	362½	-3½		
293½	177½	Cortecs	259½	-1½		
1181½	685½	Glaxo Wellc	1143½	-10½	3.6	23.6
245	176½	LIL Laboratories	202			52.8
330½	252	Medeva†	297½	-1	2.0	
403	278½	Peptide Thera	321	-1		
92	29½	Proteus Intl	57½	+1		
737½	352½	Scotia	421			
245	216	Shire Pharms	219	+½		
86½	64½	SkyePharma	79	-½		
960½	769½	SmithKline	944½	+5	2.2	23.6
392	299½	Therp Ant Inc	358½	+3		
707½	512½	Vanguard	602½			
435	210	Xenova	372			
1930	1585½	Zeneca†	1810½	-31	2.4	25.6

PRINTING & PAPER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	126	4G Holdings	126½	-1	6.0	10.7
792	712½	API	735		1.9	23.4
65	47½	App Holo	60½	+2		
202	151	Arjo Wiggins†	185½	-1	5.1	20.6
201	120	[illegible]	171		4.6	
23¼	17½	Bath Press	21½		2.6	11.8
450½	418½	Bemrose†	425½	+3	4.4	11.2
229½	182	Blagden†	182	-2	1.8	
2640¾	2176¾	Bowater Inc	2634¾	+28¾		
321½	283½	Bowater Intl†	290	-1½	1.3	
745	650	Br Polythene†	651½	-1	3.5	13.8
24½	14½	Br Thornton	20½			
148	108	Buxton Grp†	108	-1	3.8	10.4
234	199½	Bunzl†	220½		3.6	13.6
233½	180½	Capital Inds†	191½	-1	3.7	
389½	353½	Cropper (James)	358½		1.4	13.1
573½	521	De La Rue	561	+2	5.3	14.3
79½	74½	Delyn Group#	74½		3.4	14.9
257½	195½	Dolphin Pack†	252½		3.5	16.5
75½	62½	Fairway Group	62½		8.0	14.5
238	202	Ferguson Intl	203½		8.1	10.8

PROPERTY

MINING

OIL & GAS

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
200½	135½	MFI	136	-2½	4.2	13.2
510¼	458½	Marks Spencer	498½	-6½	2.9	19.7
545	495	Menzies (John)	460	-3½	3.8	12.0
26¼	22½	Merchant Retail	23¼			27.5
1425	1155	Moss Bros†	1375		2.2	..
663	523½	Next	653½	-4½	2.9	20.9
41½	29½	Olives (G)	29½			
535	467	[illegible]	474½	-½	3.3	14.6
74½	69½	Partridge Fine	72½		5.3	14.1
40½	28½	QS Hldgs	30½	+½	..	..
337½	296	Rosebys†	298½	-14	3.3	16.2
95½	71½	Sears	76½	-2	6.5	62.3
36¼	28¼	Signet Group	35½			
494	423	Smith WH	446½	+½	4.4	
1110	927½	Sotheby's	980	+5	2.5	
305½	230½	Storehouse	290½	-2	4.1	15.4
150	107	Stylo	113½	+1½	5.1	17.6
320½	175½	T & S Stores	190½		5.2	11.1
288½	154	Thorn	171	+4½	9.7	13.2
203½	186½	Tie Rack	193½		2.2	
4	3	Upton & South	4			18.9
543½	481½	Vendome	512½	-3	2.5	19.0
26	18½	WEW Group	19			15.9
417½	132½	Wickes	159	+½		
178½	76½	Wrld of Leather	128½	+6½	1.9	27.1
313½	232½	Wyevale	306½		2.4	22.0

SUPPORT SERVICES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1670	1300	ADT	1616	+7½		
525	396	AEA Tech	488½	+2½	1.9	22.6
114	97	Alpha Airpts	108½	-2½	6.2	
44½	34½	Alphameric	43			16.8
387½	292½	Amec WS	309½		2.6	22.5
188½	152½	BNB Best	154½		6.1	7.5
457½	394½	BPP†	440		3.7	19.2
182½	140½	BSM†	141½		6.7	10.6
699	416	BTG	660	-6	0.8	
89½	69½	Brooks Service†	67½		5.0	13.3
510	449	Business Post	450½		2.6	29.0
1262½	840	CMG†	1155	-5	0.6	
250½	222½	CRT Gp†	230½	+½	2.3	29.0
805	590	Card Gp	765		1.3	7.0
275½	161½	Capita Group	230½	+½	0.9	48.9
9	6½	Chemex	6½		2.8	16.7
439½	308	Chubb Sec	425		2.5	20.7
236	172½	Corp Services†	185½	+3½	3.4	15.6
58½	45½	Coutts Consltg	46½		6.4	
346	250½	DCS Gp	315½	-4	0.6	25.8
270½	232½	Davis Service†	266½		5.0	14.2
910	730	Delphi†	801½	-1	0.9	
335	290	Diagonal	321	+2		47.7
352	170	Dudley Jenkins	317½		2.3	20.4
79½	49½	EW Fact	56½		4.6	
100	64½	El Data Prc	74½		3.7	11.2
602	479	FI Group	483½		1.1	39.1
578½	515	Hays	561	-2	1.9	23.2
313½	194½	Hogg Robinson	219½		5.2	10.1
827	530	IBA Hldgs	780	-10	0.8	
295	253	Johnson Cleans	280		5.3	11.5
114½	89½	Kalamazoo	99½	-½	5.3	10.2
622	521½	Kewill Sys	590		1.8	16.1
37½	25½	Laser-Scan	29½			48.2

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
51¼	40	Freepages	40½	-3½		
93½	88½	Megalomedia	92½			51.9
65	33½	Memory Corp	42½			
590	295	Prism Rail	335			
1265	945	Ramco Egy	1002½		0.1	
783	619½	Southern News	756		3.0	24.5
70½	66½	Southern Vects	70½		3.4	15.2
496	410	Surrey Fr Invst	450		0.7	91.1
60½	33½	Trocadero†	38			

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
100	100	Treas 7% 1997	100		6.98	6.20
101½	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	100		8.68	6.25
106	104	Exch 15% 1997	104		14.38	6.36
103	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	102		9.54	6.51
101	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.21	6.64
110	107	Treas 14% 1998-01	107		13.03	6.72
114	111	Treas 15½% 1998	111		13.90	6.86
109	107	Exch 12% 1998	107		11.17	6.90
105	104	Treas 9½% 1999	104		9.13	6.96
111	109	Exch 12¼% 1999	109		11.21	7.04
108	106	Treas 10½% 1999	106		9.85	6.98
99	97	Treas 6% 1999	97		6.13	7.00
118	106	Conv 10¼% 1999	107		9.57	7.15
106	104	Conv 9% 2000	104		8.61	7.20
104	102	Treas 8% 2000	102		7.82	7.26
119	116	Treas 13% 2000	116		11.20	7.30
112	98	Treas 10% 2001	108		9.20	7.35
101	98	Treas 7% 2001	98		7.10	7.36

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
122	109	Treas 9¾% 2002	109		8.88	7.48
105	102	Treas 8% 2003	102		7.80	7.48
116	111	Treas 10% 2003	112		8.91	7.54
116	113	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113		10.17	7.38
86	82	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83		4.19	6.33
114	109	Conv 9½% 2004	110		8.57	7.58
98	94	Treas 6¾% 2004	95		7.07	7.54
109	104	Treas 8½% 2005	105		8.07	7.63
127	110	Conv 9½% 2005	110		8.57	7.64
129	124	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125		9.99	7.58
103	98	Treas 7½% 2006	98		7.59	7.67
107	99	Treas 7¾% 2006	100		7.73	7.70
104	100	Treas 8% 2002-06	100		7.92	7.65
122	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119		9.85	7.55
110	105	Treas 8½% 2007	105		8.06	7.71
102	96	Treas 7¼% 2007	97		7.47	7.67
114	108	Treas 9% 2008	109		8.23	7.75
106	101	Treas 8% 2009	101		7.88	7.79

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
91	86	Treas 6¼% 2010	86		7.19	7.84
115	109	Conv 9% 2011	110		8.18	7.82
116	109	Treas 9% 2012	110		8.18	7.83
85	80	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81		6.78	7.59
107	100	Treas 8% 2013	101		7.89	7.83
104	98	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99		7.81	7.85
107	101	Treas 8% 2015	101		7.86	7.81
115	103	Treas 8¾% 2017	109		8.03	7.85
108	101	Tr 8% 2021	102		7.84	7.80

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
47	43	War Ln 3½%	44		7.85	
33	30	Treas 2½%	31		8.01	
54	49	Consols 4%	49		8.11	

INDEX-LINKED *on projected inflation of:*

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	113	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114		.	2.22
187	184	Treas IL 2½% 2001	186		2.74	3.38
184	180	Treas IL 2½% 2003	181		3.02	3.49
120	117	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	117		3.09	3.51
195	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	191		3.25	3.56
170	170	Treas IL 2½% 2009	171		3.35	3.61
183	176	Treas IL 2½% 2011	177		3.40	3.63
150	144	Treas IL 2½% 2013	145		3.45	3.65
161	153	Treas IL 2½% 2016	155		3.49	3.67
154	147	Treas IL 2½% 2020	148		3.55	3.71
128	122	Treas IL 2½% 2024	122		3.57	3.71
126	119	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	120		3.66	3.71

RACING

Gosden's colt looks pick of Derby hopefuls

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

A CELEBRATED rogue and a modern-day rascal attempt to steal the glory at Sandown this afternoon by landing the day's two feature races — the *Thresher Classic Trial and the* Whitbread Gold Cup.

Benny The Dip, who is likely to start favourite for the Derby trial, takes his name from a New York pickpocket and like his half-brother, Beggarman Thief, featured in Damon Runyon stories. But unlike his literary namesake, the son of Silver Hawk is no scoundrel. Far from it.

The winner of three of his five starts last term, including the *Royal Lodge Stakes* at Ascot, the colt displayed progressive form and a likeable attitude. He twice defeated Desert Story, winner of the Craven Stakes at Newmarket last week, and has been showing up well on the gallops at home.

John Gosden has won four of the last five runnings of this *group three race but, as he* pointed out yesterday, on previous occasions his horses had the advantage of a previous outing. "They either ran at Ripon or Kempton beforehand and we targeted this race because it is valuable. This fellow is going there for his *first run. He's fine but he will* come on a lot for the race," the Newmarket trainer said.

If there is a fitness doubt, the Henry Cecil-trained Besiege looks the best alternative. He is 4lb better off for a brace of narrow defeats by Gosden's runner, but I just prefer **Benny The Dip.**

While Benny The Dip is a charlatan in name only, the same cannot be said about *Harwell Lad, whose doubtful* reputation makes him the longest priced of three Robert Alner-trained runners.

On several occasions he has shown a willingness to pull himself up during races and fully justifies his *Timeform* squiggle, confirming he is a *dodgy customer.* "Still very much one to treat with caution," the Halifax experts opine.

Like many temperamentally unreliable horses, Harwell Lad is not short of ability and he is a particularly fine jumper of fences. However, unlike most scallywags, he still manages to win his fair share of races and a spell of hunting with today's rider, Rupert Nuttall, seems to have sweetened him up.

A victory at Towcester in December was followed by a decent effort at Chepstow recently. *If he condescends to* put his best foot forward, **Harwell Lad** can pull off a shock result at the main *expense of his stable-companion*, Bishops Hall, who is well treated on his best form.

Garnwin will be fancied to resume his winning ways in the Brewers Fayre Novices' Chase (2.50), but the likely favourite could make **Kenmore-Speed** a value proposi*tion. Sue Smith's progressive* chaser has been running over an extended three miles but should not be inconvenienced by today's shorter trip at this stiff track.

Tamure may need the run in the David Lloyd Leisure Gordon Richards Stakes *(4.45), while Bequeath could* be tapped for toe over this trip. **Ali-Royal** beat Wixim in the Earl Of Sefton Stakes and that form received a boost when the runner-up landed the Sandown Mile yesterday. Henry Cecil's progressive four-year-old should appreciate today's extra furlong.

The best bets may be away from the gaze of the television cameras with **Irish Accord** *(5.15 Sandown) making con*siderable appeal now that he steps up to a mile.

The Michael Stoute-trained **Tanaasa** (5.05 Leicester) should make short work of his rivals after the victory of his galloping companion, Regal Patrol, at Beverley on Thursday.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TANAASA
(5.05 Leicester)
Next best: Irish Accord
(5.15 Sandown Park)

Wixim confounds Charlton with battling win

By Julian Muscat

ELEVEN months of frustration dissolved before the eyes of Roger Charlton yesterday when Wixim, as brittle as he is talented, held off the deter*mined challenge of First Is*land to claim the group two Sandown Mile.

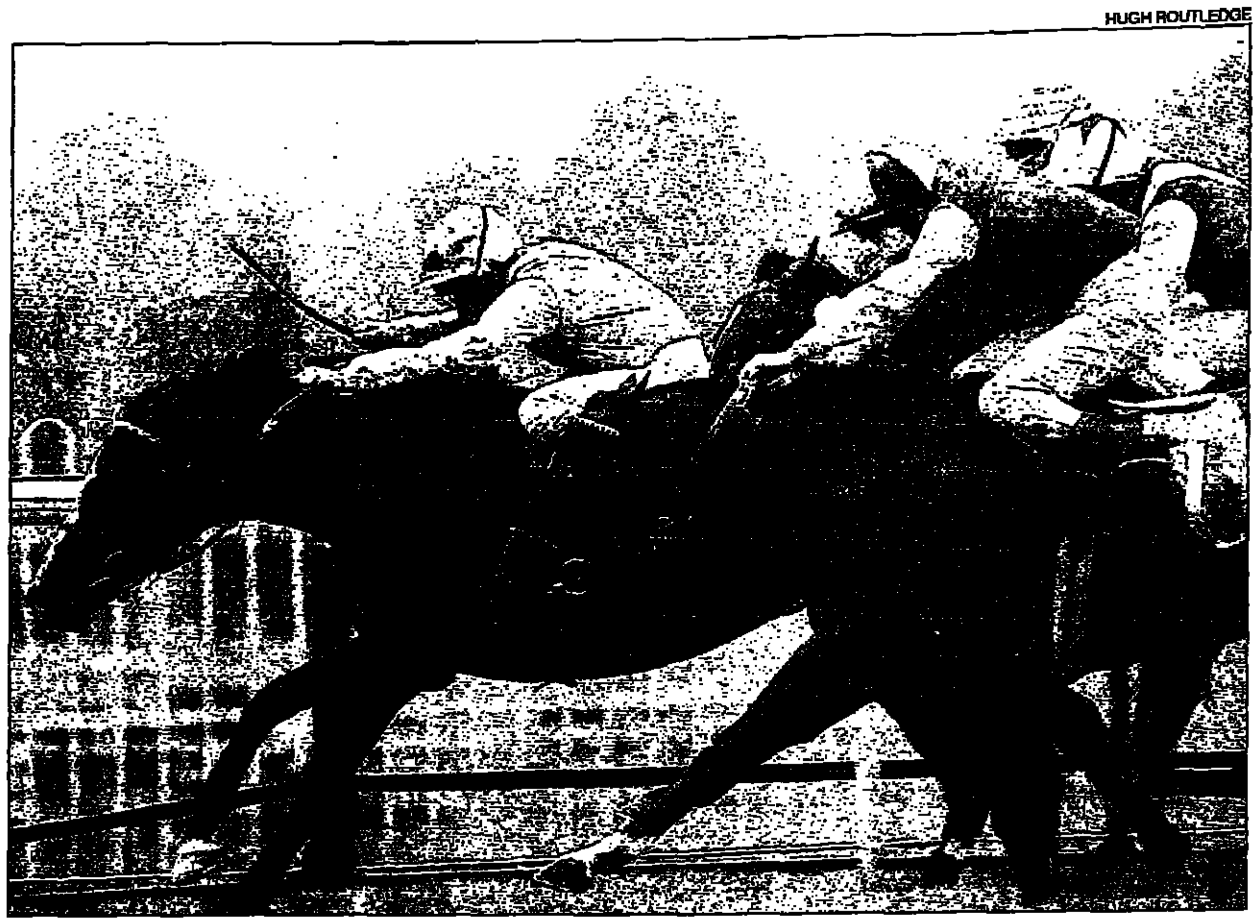
Patient as he is, the *Beckhampton trainer* believed Wixim a spent force when a succession of injuries kept him off the track for much of last season. The horse is made of stern stuff, however, and he summoned it to maximum effect here as First Island, set a testing assignment from the rear of the field, threatened to pull the race from the fire.

Indeed, even with his 6lb *penalty, First Island looked* poised to snaffle Wixim as he ranged up to Pat Eddery's girths approaching the final furlong. But the five-year-old's effort flattened out — rather curiously as it turned out, for he rallied to good effect when Michael Hills put down his whip in an act of resignation.

There will be other paydays for First Island, who now heads for the Lockinge Stakes. But Wixim fully deserved his moment of glory, his courage seeing him through some untimely jostling as he attempted to settle the issue. It quickly became evident that the colt was blameless, the trouble concerning the errant passage of Gothenberg, who ran his best race in fourth place. It was the diminutive Bin Rosie who suffered most: he did well to secure third place in the circumstances.

Charlton, whose first turf winner of the season this was, almost withdrew Wixim from the contest earlier this week. "I wasn't keen to run him, but there was no other suitable race for two months," the trainer said. "There was always something wrong with him last year. I thought he was a lost cause at one stage but he was treated in Newmarket over the winter and came back in great nick."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Wixim withstands the late challenge of First Island, nearside, to capture the Sandown Mile yesterday

Robert Sangster has stoutly defended Revoque despite the colt's recent reverse at Newbury. Interestingly, Revoque returns to that venue for a racecourse gallop this morning: connections obviously believe the 2,000 Guineas candidate requires shaking up from his home complacency. But Sangster's aspirations for Romanov in the Irish equivalent were suspended when the son of Nureyev advertised his immaturity in winning the Tudor Conditions Stakes.

An impressive individual, Romanov gave John Reid all sorts of problems before buckling down to catch Harry Wolton close home. It was a thoroughly composed performance from Reid, who nursed, then cajoled and finally forced this three-parts brother to Balanchine to the front — all accomplished with a measure of restraint. "The horse dropped his bit turning into the straight and I thought that was the end of it," Sangster said. "We might have to miss Ireland and give him some more education."

Royston Ffrench was fortune to escape injury after a nasty fall from Shouk in the April Maiden Fillies' Stakes, won impressively by Sean Woods's Oaks entry, Ukraine Venture.

There will be plenty of parking space around Sandown today for the *Whitbread* Gold Cup. A series of security measures will restrict parking near the racecourse but alternative sites, with regular shuttles to and from the track, should ensure minimal disruption for racegoers.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Alpen Wolf
2.50 Fine Thyne
3.30 Yorkshire Gale
4.10 Besiege
4.45 **NEEDLE GUN (nap)**
5.15 Rapier
5.50 Bilko

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.10 Besiege. 4.45 **SASURU** (nap).

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES — SIS

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 PIZZA HUT MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O colts and geldings: £3,571: 5f 6yd) (10 runners)

101	(6)		ALPEN WOLF (R Haim) W Muir 8-11	J Reid	
102	(9)		BASIC STYLE (M Moore) N Callaghan 8-11	Paul Eddery	
103	(7)		BATSWING (R Withers) M Meade 8-11	K Fallon	
104	(10)	5	EMPEROR NAHEEM 9 (Mrs E Meehan) B Meehan 8-11	Pat Eddery	95
105	(4)		HOH JUSTICE (D Allport) I Balding 8-11	L Dettori	
106	(8)		OISIN (In For The Crack) Mrs P Dutfield 8-11	T Quinn	
107	(1)	3	PROSE 9 (Highclere Racing Ltd) R Hannon 8-11	Dane O'Neill	[illegible]
108	(5)		RON'S PET (G Teo) R Hannon 8-11	R Hughes	
109	(3)	5	SMOOTH SAILING 23 (A Parrish) K McAuliffe 8-11	J Fortune	96
110	(2)		SWOOSH (Sports Mania) B Meehan 8-11	B Doyle	

BETTING: 9-4 Hoh Justice, 7-2 Prose, 5-1 Ron's Pet, 7-1 Emperor Naheem, 8-1 Basic Style, Swoosh, 10-1 Smooth Sailing, 12-1 others

1996: ROMAN IMP 8-11 J Tate (6-1) A Jarvis 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALPEN WOLF (cost 17,000 gns, foaled Feb 5), half-brother (by Wolfhound) to 5f winner Oatey and group II winner Munwar. BASIC STYLE (15,000 gns, Apr 23): half-brother (by Alhijaz) to multiple 6f winner Quick Blush. EMPEROR NAHEEM 4½l 5th of 6 to Blakeset in maiden at Newmarket (5f, good). HOH JUSTICE (14,000 gns, Apr 15), seventh foal by Petardia; dam 1m 2f - 1m 5f winner in France. PROSE 6l 3rd of 9 to Occhi Verdi in maiden at Ripon (5f, good to firm). RON'S PET (16,500 gns, Apr 15), half-brother (by Ron's Victory) to two modest maidens. SMOOTH SAILING 4¾l 5th of 10 to Prince Foley in auction maiden at Leicester (5f, firm). SWOOSH (8,200 gns, Apr 4); half-brother (by Absalom) to Forzara 5f winner at three years. Selection: EMPEROR NAHEEM

2.50 BREWERS FAYRE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
C4

(£13,705: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

201	211P63	STATELY HOME 7 (CD,F,G) (P Bowen) P Bowen 6-12-0	R Johnson	89
202	311112	*GARNWIN 14 (D,F,G) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 7-11-4*	*M A Fitzgerald*	*88*
203	121114	FINE THYNE 63 (D,F,G,S) (P Wegand) Mrs A Perrett 8-10-13	R Dunwoody	98
204	F54U61	PLUNDER BAY 25 (D,F,S) (W, M & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 6-10-3	N Williamson	[illegible]
205	221211	KENMORE-SPEED 9 (D,F,G,S) (K Dacker) Mrs S Smith 10-10-3	R Guest	97
206	0-21522	GOLDENSWIFT 42 (BF,G,S) (Mrs S Watts) G Balding 7-10-0	B Fenton	90
207	0601UU	FULL OF BOUNCE 26 (G) (Fieldspring Racing) R Hodges 6-10-0	T Dascombe	88
208	00/P2	TOM'S APACHE 21 (O Carter) O Carter 8-10-0	D Gallagher	54

Long handicap: Goldenswift 9-8, Full Of Bounce 9-1, Tom's Apache 8-5

BETTING: 9-4 Garnwin, 7-2 Kenmore-Speed, 4-1 Fine Thyne, 5-1 Plunder Bay, Stately Home, 8-1 others

1996: DESTINY CALLS 6-10-2 R Dunwoody (4-1) N Gaselee 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

STATELY HOME 3½l 3rd of 8 to Sparky Gale in grade II Edinburgh Woollen Mill's Future Champion Novices' Chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good). GARNWIN shd 2nd of 4 to Greenback in novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110y, good to firm). FINE THYNE 24l 4th of 6 to Land Afar in Pendil Novices' Chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110y, good) with STATELY HOME (12lb worse off) pulled up. PLUNDER BAY beat Callisoe Bay neck in 3-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good to firm). KENMORE-SPEED beat Donjuan Collonges ½l in 14-runner handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good). GOLDENSWIFT neck 2nd of 11 to Tellicherry in novices' handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good). FULL OF BOUNCE beat Frazer Island 21l in 10-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good) on last completed outing. TOM'S APACHE 6l 2nd of 11 to Nectanebo in amateur riders' novices' hunter chase at Hereford (2m, good to firm).
Selection: KENMORE-SPEED

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Market Rasen: 2.10 Nor Esprit. Ripon: 5.20 Legal Right. Wolverhampton: 7.00 Risky Lover, 7.30 Chilling. Worcester: 5.45 Regal Pursuit, 6.15 Old Redwood, 7.15 Walking Tall

3.30 41ST WHITBREAD GOLD CUP
C4

(Handicap chase: grade III: £57,400: 3m 5f 110yd) (9 runners)

301	253221	BARTON BANK 23 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 11-11-10	D Walsh	[illegible]
302	125-3U6	AVRO ANSON 19 (F,G) (B Skelton) M Camacho 9-10-10	P Niven	98
303	44-P1P1	FLYER'S NAP 46 (D,G,S) (R Tory) R Alner 11-10-7	A P McCoy	98
304	1-241PP	BISHOPS HALL 19 (F,G,S) (T Carroll) R Alner 11-10-6	C F Swan	85
305	5-2605P	FEATHERED GALE 19 (D,F,G,S) (M O'Connor) A Moore 10-10-5	P Carberry	90
306	1-14130	YORKSHIRE GALE 46 (C,F,G,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 11-10-2	N Williamson	95
307	230-P12	HARWELL LAD 26 (F,G,S) (H Wellstead) R Alner 8-10-0	Mr R Nuttall	82
308	112125	*MCGREGOR THE THIRD 42 (F,G) (Mrs D Whitaker) G Richards 11-10-0*	*R Dunwoody*	*89*
309	PRU1FU	TOM'S GEMINI STAR 14 (F) (O Carter) O Carter 9-10-0	D Gallagher	

Long handicap: Harwell Lad 9-6, McGregor The Third 9-6, Tom's Gemini Star 6-13

BETTING: 3-1 Avro Anson, 7-2 Barton Bank, 4-1 Flyer's Nap, 5-1 Bishops Hall, 8-1 Feathered Gale, McGregor The Third, Yorkshire Gale, 16-1 Harwell Lad, 250-1 Tom's Gemini Star

1996: LIFE OF A LORD 10-11-10 C Swan (12-1) A P O'Brien (Ire) 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

BARTON BANK beat Merry Gale 9l in 5-runner grade II Martell Cup at Aintree (3m 1f, good). AVRO ANSON 38½l 6th of 36 to Lord Gyllene in *Martell Grand National at Aintree* (4m 4f, good) with FEATHERED GALE (5lb better off) pulled up 4 out and BISHOPS HALL (2lb better off) pulled up 2 out. FLYER'S NAP beat Stormtracker 1½l in 14-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) with YORKSHIRE GALE (5lb better off) 8½l 7th. FEATHERED GALE 30½l last of 5 to Wylde Hide in handicap chase at Leopardstown (2m 5f, soft) on penultimate start. HARWELL LAD 6l 2nd of 6 to Seod Rioga in handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, good). MCGREGOR THE THIRD 42l 5th of 10 to Seven Towers in grade III Marstons Pedigree Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter (4m 2f, good). TOM'S GEMINI STAR beat Vital Song 5l in 9-runner hunter chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm) on last completed outing.
Selection: AVRO ANSON

4.10 THRESHER CLASSIC TRIAL
C4

(Group III: 3-Y-O: £40,194: 1m 2f 7yd) (6 runners)

401	(5)	21113-	BENNY THE DIP 182 (G) (Landon Knight) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	96
402	(4)	3151-	VOYAGERS QUEST 151 (F,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-12	J Reid	[illegible]
403	(6)	1134-	BESIEGE 182 (F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-10	K Fallon	97
404	(3)	21314-	FURTHER OUTLOOK 188 (F,G) (Lady Harrison) Mrs A Perrett 8-10	M Hills	88
405	(2)	0411-	SILVER PATRIARCH 175 (D,G) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 8-10	Pat Eddery	95
406	(1)	*00512-*	*YAVLENSKY 160 (S) (V Schirone) J Dunlop 8-10*	T Quinn	86

BETTING: 6-4 Benny The Dip, 7-2 Voyagers Quest, 4-1 Silver Patriarch, 5-1 Besiege, 8-1 Further Outlook, 12-1 Yavlensky

1996: SANTILLANA 8-10 L Dettori (6-1) J Gosden 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BENNY THE DIP 1¾l 3rd of 9 to Medaaly in group I Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster (1m, good) with BESIEGE (4lb better off) further 1½l 4th. VOYAGERS QUEST beat Sendoro ½l in 8-runner group III Prix Saint-Roman at Evry (1m 1f, v soft). *FURTHER OUTLOOK 7l 4th of 10 to Hello in group I* Grand Criterium at San Siro (1m, heavy). SILVER PATRIARCH beat Eldorado ¾l in 10-runner listed race at Newmarket (1m 2f, good). YAVLENSKY 1½l 2nd of 8 to Golden Aventura in group II Premio Guido Berardelli at Capannelle (1m 1f, heavy).
Selection: *BENNY THE DIP (nap)*

4.45 DAVID LLOYD LEISURE GORDON RICHARDS STAKES
C4

(Group III: £19,110: 1m 2f 7yd) (7 runners)

501	(4)	00030-2	NEEDLE GUN 23 (D,F,G) (S Manana) C Brittain 7-9-1	B Doyle	94
502	(2)	3/24111-	SASURU 254 (D,G) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 4-9-1	M Hills	90
503	(5)	02211-1	ALI-ROYAL 10 (G,S) (Greenbay Stables Ltd) H Cecil 4-8-13	K Fallon	[illegible]
504	(3)	54302-0	RESTRUCTURE 10 (F,G) (M Myers) Mrs J Cecil 5-8-13	Paul Eddery	98
505	(7)	32/115-	BEQUEATH 291 (F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 5-8-10	J Lowe	91
506	(6)	2212-	MULTICOLOURED 178 (D,G) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 4-8-10	J Reid	90
507	(1)	12144/0-	TAMURE 202 (D,F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 5-8-10	L Dettori	90

BETTING: 7-4 Ali-Royal, 7-2 Bequeath, 6-1 Multicoloured, 7-1 Sasuru, 8-1 Needle Gun, Restructure, Tamure

1996: SINGSPIEL 4-8-10 L Dettori (11-10 fav) M Stoute 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

NEEDLE GUN 1l 2nd to Tamayaz in Dubai Duty Free stakes at Nad Al Sheba (1m 2f, fast). SASURU beat Android sh hd in group II Prix Guillaume d'Ornano at Deauville (1m 2f, good). ALI-ROYAL beat Wixim 2l in group III Earl of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket (1m 1f, good) with RESTRUCTURE (3lb better off) 6½l 8th. BEQUEATH 8¼l 5th to 8 to Posidonas in group II Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good). MULTICOLOURED neck 2nd of 8 to Proper Blue in listed race at Newmarket (1m 2f, good). TAMURE 16l 14th to 16 to Helissio in group I Forte Meridien Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (1m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: ALI-ROYAL

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CO,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) . 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

5.15 MARRIOTT HOTELS HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £9,495: 1m 14yd) (11 runners)

601	(11)	155240-	RICH IN LOVE 207 (F) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-7	K Fallon	92
602	(7)	14-3	IRISH ACCORD 23 (F) (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 9-4	J Fortune	97
603	(4)	56110-	AMYAS 191 (F,G) (Mrs J Corbett) B Hills 8-13	M Hills	91
604	(3)	213356-	BRIDE'S REPRISAL 233 (F,S) (Mrs J Keegan) M Channon 8-12	R Hughes	94
605	(5)	12143-0	SHEER FACE 9 (D,F) (A de V Patrick) W Muir 8-12	J Reid	93
606	(8)	10426-0	HALOWING 14 (F) (Astrop Stud) J Smyth-Osbourne 8-10	B Doyle	91
607	(10)	313-2	RAPIER 10 (D,F) (Mrs A Kane) R Hannon 8-10	Dane O'Neill	[illegible]
608	(2)	312-	KALINKA 213 (F) (Elite Racing Club) P Cole 8-9	T Quinn	90
609	(6)	1-2	NO MORE PRESSURE 15 (D,G) (P Green) N Walker 8-5	Pat Eddery	93
610	(9)	001-	ORTELIUS 180 (G) (I Wight) R Hannon 8-1	Paul Eddery	88
611	(1)	0-33	BURNING TRUTH 17 (K Abdulla) R Charlton 7-13	R Ffrench (5)	95

BETTING: 9-4 Irish Accord, 9-2 Rapier, 6-1 Kalinka, 7-1 Amyas, 8-1 Ortelius, 10-1 Burning Truth, 12-1 others.

1996: SORBIE TOWER 9-3 R Cochrane (2-1 fav) Miss G Kelleway 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

IRISH ACCORD 3½l 3rd of 6 to Grand Lad in *conditions race at Leicester (6f, firm). AMYAS 4½l* 8th of 18 to Crykavoc in nursery at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). SHEER FACE 8l 3rd of 5 to High Roller in listed race at Ascot (1m, good). RAPIER ½l 2nd of 11 to Future Perfect in conditions race at Pontefract (1m, good to firm). KALINKA shd 2nd of 15 to White Hot in auction maiden at Goodwood (7f, good to firm) with SHEER FACE (10lb better *off) 4l 4th. NO MORE PRESSURE ½l 2nd to Night* Dance in conditions race at Beverley (7f, 100yd, good to firm). ORTELIUS beat Prince Of Denial neck in maiden at Leicester (7f, good). BURNING TRUTH 4¾l 3rd to Green Card in maiden at Ripon (1m, good to firm).
Selection: BURNING TRUTH

5.50 BEEFEATER RESTAURANT RATED HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £7,492: 5f 6yd) (11 runners)

1	(3)	10353-5	VASARI 28 (D,G) (A Tuckerman) M Channon 9-7	T Quinn	94
2	(7)	65123-	PADDY LAD 219 (CD,F) (M & G Hill Ltd) R Guest 9-6	P Bloomfield	94
3	(2)	62401-2	MYRMIDON 28 (D,S) (M Worth) Mrs L Stubbs 9-4	K Fallon	93
4	(9)	055110-	MELIKSAH 198 (D,F) (Y Birol) M Bell 9-2	G Faulkner (5)	92
5	(6)	214300-	SNAP CRACKLE POP 191 (D,F) (J Short) R Johnson Houghton 9-0	J Reid	89
6	(11)	54120-	HATTAB 180 (D,G) (H al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-13	R Hughes	90
7	(1)	0224-1	CADEAUX CHER 35 (F) (N Browne) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	96
8	(5)	321111	TREASURE TOUCH 9 (F,G) (N Honeyman) D Nicholls 8-8	Iona Wands (5)	97
9	(8)	12-5	BILKO 28 (D,S) (J Manley) G Lewis 8-7	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
10	(10)	310-	SABINA 196 (G) (The Queen) I Balding 8-4	L Dettori	97
11	(4)	31-3	BISHOPS COURT 37 (D,BF,G) (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 8-4	J Fortune	95

BETTING: 3-1 Bishops Court, 4-1 Treasure Touch, 5-1 Cadeaux Cher, Bilko, 8-1 Vasari, 10-1 Myrmidon, 12-1 others.

1996: DASHING BLUE 9-1 L Dettori (11-2) I Balding 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MYRMIDON 1¾l 2nd to Superior Premium in listed race at Haydock (5f, soft) with VASARI (3lb worse) 9½l 5th. MELIKSAH *beat HATTAB (1lb* better) 1½l in nursery at Newmarket (5f, good to firm). CADEAUX CHER beat Mile High 1¾l in maiden at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). TREASURE TOUCH beat Refuse To Lose 1l in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). BILKO 2¼l 5th to Supercal in handicap at Kempton (6f, good). SAB*INA 13l 9th to Easycall in Cornwallis Stakes at* Ascot (5f, good) with MELIKSAH (7lb worse off) 21l 11th. BISHOPS COURT 2¼l 3rd to Brutal Fantasy in handicap at Doncaster (5f, good to firm).
Selection: BISHOPS COURT

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs J Ramsden	3	13	23.1	Pat Eddery	53	237	22.4
J Dunlop	20	95	21.1	L Dettori	38	185	20.5
J Gosden	20	99	20.2	Dane O'Neill	9	61	14.8
H Cecil	13	70	18.6	T Quinn	24	176	13.6
M Stoute	20	124	16.1	J Reid	22	185	11.9

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Pontefract (first race, 2.45), Southwell (AW, 2.30).
TUESDAY: Bath (2.00), **Nottingham** (2.15), Ascot (BBC, 5.30), Huntingdon (5.15)
WEDNESDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.30), Exeter (2.20), Plumpton (2.10), Cheltenham (5.25), Kelso (5.45)
THURSDAY: **Redcar** (2.30), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.15)
FRIDAY: **Newmarket** (C4, 2.05), Musselburgh (2.15), Newton Abbot (1.50), Bangor (6.00), Sedgefield (5.45)
SATURDAY: **Newmarket** (C4, 2.00), Haydock Park (BBC, 1.10), Hereford (2.25), **Thirsk** (2.20), Uttoxeter (2.10), Hexham (Sky, 6.00), Warwick (Sky, 5.45)
SUNDAY: **Newmarket** (C4, 2.00), **Hamilton Park** (2.20), **Salisbury** (2.10)
Flat meetings in bold

RAPID RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
SANDOWN	101	201
LEICESTER	102	202
RIPON	103	203
MKT RASEN	104	204
WORCESTER	105	205
W'HAMPTON	106	206
IRISH	120	220

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
IRISH LOTTERY RESULT 0930 162 441
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. IMS, Leeds LS1 8LB

Pick up the phone
PICK UP A £10* FREE BET
FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS
staking £25 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards.

WHITBREAD GOLD CUP
3 miles 5 furlongs, H'cap Chase, Sandown 3.30pm, Live on CH4 TV.

7/2	Avro Anson
7/2	Barton Bank
4/1	Flyer's Nap
11/2	Bishops Hall
7/1	McGregor The Third
7/1	Yorkshire Gale
9/1	Feathered Gale
12/1	Harwell Lad
200/1	Tom's Gemini Star

Each way One Fifth the odds a place 1,2,3. Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to 3.15pm Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply Non runner - no bet.

LATEST ODDS ON William Hill TV TEXT
• Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603

RING TODAY - BET TODAY
0800 44 40 40
(Minimum total investment per call £10. Over 18's only)
*Free bet is a £10 Straight Forecast on the Sandown 3.30pm today. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

William HILL
TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892. WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER
5.45 Fairly Sharp. 6.15 Lucky Eddie. 6.45 Factor Ten. 7.15 Keep Me In Mind. 7.45 Phar Too Touchy. 8.15 Mr Christie.

Carl Evans: 7.45 Phar Too Touchy.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

5.45 HENWICK MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,600: 2m) (20 runners)

1	-614	*MAID FOR ADVENTURE 81 (F) Miss H Knight 6-11-5*	J Culloty
2	1266	REGAL PURSUIT 14 (B,F) N Henderson 6-11-5	M A Fitzgerald
3	6222	FAIRLY SHARP 14 (D,F) G Fox 4-10-13	R Guest
4	P000	A BADGE TOO FAR 24 (S) Mrs L Williamson 7-10-12	R Bellamy
5	-0P0	BLUE HAVANA 64 J Rae 5-10-12	P Hide
6	05P	CARLINGFORD GALE 47 T George 6-10-12	R Johnson
7	P	CLOUDY HOUSE 7 N Lampard 8-10-12	Mr L Baker (7)
8	054	FUN WHILE IT LASTS 51 T Forster 6-10-12	S Wynne
9	.04	GLADYS EMMANUEL 37 (S) R Peacock 10-10-12	D J Kavanagh (5)
10	000	LUCRATIVE PERK 65 Miss C Caroe 5-10-12	D Leahy
11	3P04	MADAM'S WALK 26 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-12	C Llewellyn
12		MADAM CORA R Dickin 5-10-12	B Powell
13	-000	MOLLIE SILVERS 65 J Cresswell 5-10-12	W McFarland
14	6	RING FOR ROSIE 65 T Forster 6-10-12	B Fenton
15	0	SISSINGHURST FLYER 46 R Dickin 5-10-12	C Maude
16	P	T'NIEL 68 G Fierro 6-10-12	S Lycett (7)
17	0	TECHNICAL MOVE 37 G Ham 6-10-12	S Burrough
18		THE FLYING FIDDLE 533F S Cole 5-10-12	T Dascombe
19		HEATHYARDS JADE 430F A Streeter 4-10-6	T Eley
20	0U3	ROYAL MEMBER 11 Mrs B Waring 4-10-6	E Byrne

5-2 Maid For Adventure, 11-4 Fairly Sharp, 5-1 Regal Pursuit, 8-1 Madam's Walk, 14-1 Ring For Rosie, Fun While It Lasts, 16-1 others.

6.15 WEST MALVERN NOVICES CHASE
(£2,841: 2m) (6)

1	2213	TENAYESTELIGN 17 (D,F,G) D Marks 9-11-9	S Wynne
2	2-4U	DIAMOND LIGHT 4 V Bishop 10-11-0	Mr S Lloyd
3	6332	LUCKY EDDIE 26 (BF,G) P Hobbs 6-11-0	C Maude
4	P668	OLD REDWOOD 33 (B) Mrs L Williamson 10-11-0	L O'Hara
5	5/4-	STEEL GOLD 392 [illegible] 7-11-0	Mr R Burton (7)
6	00PP	LADY ROSEBURY 35 P Price 7-10-9	T Murphy

4-11 Lucky Eddie, 7-2 Tenayestelign, 12-1 Steel Gold, 16-1 Diamond Light, Old Redwood, 50-1 Lady Rosebury

6.45 NICK HALLIGAN AND PETER HIGGS HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,731: 2m 7f 110yd) (7)

1	3005	BAVARD DIEU 26 (CD,F,G,S) N Gaselee 9-11-10	C Llewellyn
2	1P12	FACTOR TEN 162 (CD,F,G) Miss H Knight 9-11-4	J F Titley
3	1135	ACT OF PARLIAMENT 58 (B,CD,F,G) K Bailey 9-10-12	Mr R Wakley (7)
4	06FP	SCRIBBLER 19 (B,G,S) G McCourt 11-10-7	D Fortt (3)
5	2131	BALLY CLOVER 139 (G,S) Miss V Williams 10-10-6	N Williamson
6	1245	HAWAIIAN YOUTH 12 (F,G,S) G McCourt 9-10-2	R Dunwoody
7	PP5P	TOP BRASS 39 (S) K Bailey 9-10-0	S McNeill

9-4 Factor Ten, 7-2 Bally Clover, 5-1 Act Of Parliament, 6-1 Hawaiian Youth, Bavard Dieu, 10-1 Scribbler, Top Brass.

7.15 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,092: 2m) (15)

1	1F20	TEJANO GOLD 21 (CD,G,S) P Bradley 7-11-10	R Dunwoody
2	1013	OUT RANKING 14 (CD,F,G,S) J Neville 5-11-5	T Dascombe
3	1-4U	TIGHT FIST 147 (F,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-2	J F Titley
4	-204	JOSIFINA 42 (D,F,S) A Foster 6-11-1	M A Fitzgerald
5	-455	KEEP ME IN MIND 26 (D,F,S) N Mitchell 8-10-9	C Maude
6	012P	EASY LISTENING 22 (G) N Hawke 5-10-9	J Railton
7	4411	EURO SINGER 21 (D,F) T Keddy 5-10-9	S Ryan
8	1001	PERCY BRAITHWAITE 17 (D,F) Miss P Whittle 5-10-8	Mr J Goldstein (7)
9	0000	SAINT CIEL 9 (CD,G,S) F Jordan 9-10-7	S Wynne
10	5/2	ROCA MURADA 266 (F,G) P Hobbs 8-10-5	N Williamson
11	0633	KINO'S CROSS 24 (D,S) A J Wilson 8-10-4	L Harvey
12	D-3P	WALKING TALL 39 (B,D,BF,F,G) T McGovern 6-10-3	R Johnson
13	510-	YOUR RISK 470 (D,F,G) T Casey 7-10-3	J A McCarthy
14	1233	COOLEY'S VALVE 176 (CD,F) Mrs S Williams 9-10-3	C F Swan
15	05/	CARIBBEAN PRINCE 714 (B,D,G) G McCourt 9-10-0	S McNeill

5-1 Euro Singer, 6-1 Tejano Gold, 7-1 Tight Fist, Percy Braithwaite, 8-1 others.

7.45 UPTON UPON SEVERN NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,123: 2m 7f 110yd) (13)

1	U1U3	CAPO CASTANUM 14 (F) Miss H Knight 8-12-7	A Wintle (7)
2	4614	*NOT MY LINE 12 (G) A Morgan 8-12-7*	A Sansome (5)
3	P225	ANN'S AMBITION 21 Mrs C Hussey 10-12-0	M Frith (7)
4	/4-F	BALLYHAMAGE 14P J Evans 9-12-0	M Munrowd (7)
5	-PUU	JOHNNY THE FOX 23 J Porter 9-12-0	R Lawther (7)
6	-022	LORD KILTON 334P Mrs D Cowley 9-12-0	M Cowley (7)
7	-U52	NO JOKER 32 (F,G) N Gaselee 9-12-0	P Scott (7)
8	11-2	PETE'S SAKE 48P (F) A Emever 12-12-0	G Vigors (5)
9	60-1	SULTAN'S SON 13P (F,G) S Cuthbert 11-12-0	G Lewis (7)
10	3261	TEA CEE KAY 13P (F,G) C King 7-12-0	R Sweeting (7)
11	4313	WHO'S YOUR MAN 14P (F) Mrs N Sharpe 7-12-0	D S Jones (7)
12	1/P2	CALL-ME-DINKY 28P (G,S) C Fuller 13-11-9	Miss C Thomas (7)
13	11-U	PHAR TOO TOUCHY 97P (F,G,S) V Dartnall 10-11-9	N Harris (7)

3-1 Capo Castanum, 4-1 Phar Too Touchy, 5-1 Johnny The Fox, 6-1 others.

8.15 POWICK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,775: 3m) (18)

1	1F11	MAYB-MAYB 47 (S) J Neville 7-11-10	A P McCoy
2	4300	MISTER BLAKE 31 (CD,F,G) R Lee 7-11-9	R Johnson
3	6-40	CAMERA MAN 50 N Henderson 7-11-9	M A Fitzgerald
4	-400	JOBSAGOODUN 77 N Henderson 6-11-8	J R Kavanagh
5	532P	VALLINGALE 52 Miss H Knight 6-11-7	J Culloty
6	4650	MR CHRISTIE 10 (D,S) Miss L Siddall 5-11-3	R Dunwoody
7	4622	OPERETTO 58 Mrs S Nock 7-11-2	N Williamson
8	F040	RANGER SLOANE 28 (S) G Fierro 5-11-1	C F Swan
9	1P21	SAMMORELLO 33 (F,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0	C Llewellyn
10	P305	JIGGINSTOWN 35 (G) J J O'Neill 10-11-0	L Cooper (7)
11	5F-2	TOMMY COOPER 11 Mrs B Waring 6-11-0	E Byrne
12	P004	DANNY GALE 47 (G) G McCourt 6-11-0	S McNeill
13	R-PR	VICAR OF BRAY 130 (F,G) L Wells 10-10-13	M Richards
14	-40P	STORMY SESSION 42 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-13	D Walsh
15	2F15	PARADE RACER 51 (BF,S) P Murphy 6-10-12	W McFarland
16	PP34	HELLO ME MAN 47 (S) B Llewellyn 9-10-11	Mr J L Llewellyn
17	006	LOUGHDOO 80 R Lee 9-10-10	B Fenton
18	6044	BROOKHAMPTON LANE 58 Mrs A Bowlby 6-10-9	B Powell

7-2 Mayb-Mayb, 4-1 Sammorello, 7-1 Vallingale, Camera Man, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss H Knight, 12 winners from 46 runners, 26.1%; K Bailey, 24 from 108, 22.2%; P Hobbs, 26 from 128, 20.3%; J J O'Neill, 3 from 16, 18.8%; R Lee, 8 from 46, 17.4%

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 27 winners from 107 rides, 25.2%; J Culloty, 5 from 25, 20.0%; N Williamson, 20 from 117, 17.1%; C Llewellyn, 20 from 130, 15.4%; R Dunwoody, 32 from 213, 15.0%

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
7.00 Magic Fizz. 7.30 Palacegate Jack. 8.00 Shanghai Lil. 8.30 All On. 9.00 Pink Ticket. 9.30 Sis Garden.

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

7.00 SARUMAN MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£2,277: 6f) (13 runners)

1	365-	FORCING BID 170 M Prescott 3-9-12	G Duffield 7
2	40-2	DON'T WORRY MIKE 18 F Lee 3-9-7	A Culhane 9
3	000-	*TORONTO 189 J Berry 3-9-6*	*S Whitworth 4*
4	000-	PRIMELTA 184 R Akehurst 4-9-6	S Sanders 3
5	000-	EXPRESS ROUTING 206 V Soane 5-9-6	F Norton 8
6	500-	PRUDENT PRINCESS 148 A Hide 5-9-4	A McGlone 1
7	3-63	MAGIC FIZZ 56 T Etherington 3-9-3	L Charnock 12
8	600-	GOLBORNE LAD 366 J Balding 4-9-3	R Lappin 2
9	005	RISKY LOVER 19 (B) D Shaw 4-9-3	J Fanning 5
10	50-3	*SHARP HOLLY 19 (B) J Bennett 5-8-13*	*D Wright 13*
11	00-6	WITH THE TEMPO 23 J Scargill 4-8-12	S Drowne 6
12	0/5	ARNIE 31 Jamie Poulton 5-8-7	Martin Dwyer (3) 11
13	2006	BLUE LUGANA 31 N Bycroft 5-8-7	J Bramhill (5) 10

3-1 Don't Worry Mike, 7-2 Magic Fizz, 4-1 Forcing Bid, 8-1 Sharp Holly, 10-1 Primelta, Blue Lugana, 16-1 others.

7.30 STRIDER CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,277: 5f) (10)

1	0-05	FIRST MAITE 9 (B,D,G) S Bowring 4-9-12	S Webster 8
2	4205	KALAR 9 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 8-9-8	A Culhane 6
3	-456	PALACEGATE JACK 25 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 6-9-8	C Lowther (7) 9
4	-120	SILK COTTAGE 9 (CD,G) R Whitaker 5-9-8	D McKeown 10
5	4200	FEATHERSTONE LANE 5 (CD,F,G) Miss L Siddall 6-9-4	M Wigham 2
6	0-52	PERFECT BRAVE 14 (F) J Balding 6-9-4	R Lappin 3
7	0330	LITTLE IBNR 14 (V,CD,F,G) P Evans 6-9-0	J F Egan 5
8	0	LITTLE PAPOOSE 14 B McMahon 4-8-11	L Newton 1
9		SUSIE'S SONNY J Leigh 3-8-8	L Charnock 4
10	5405	CHILLING 14 (B,CD,G) N Tinkler 3-8-1	K Sked (7) 7

3-1 Kalar, 7-2 First Maite, 5-1 Featherstone Lane, 6-1 Perfect Brave, 8-1 *Palacegate Jack*, 10-1 Silk Cottage, Little Ibnr, 16-1 others

8.00 WARLORD HANDICAP
(£3,304: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1	040-	MENTALASANYTHIN 172 (CD,F,G,S) D Haydn Jones 8-10-0	C Rutter 5
2	4056	BENTICO 19 (CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-7	S Sanders 3
3	6110	CAPTAIN'S DAY 31 (BF,F,G) H Collingridge 5-9-2	R Mullen (5) 11
4	0320	TUIGAMALA 22 (F,G) R Ingram 6-9-2	A McGlone 10
5	1223	*SHANGHAI LIL 22 (C,G) M Fetherston-Godley 5-8-13*	F Norton 12
6	40-0	PEOPLE DIRECT 18 (C,G) K McAuliffe 4-8-13	J F Egan 13
7	00-0	NICOLA'S PRINCESS 40 (C,G) B McMahon 4-8-9	L Newton 8
8	40-0	WINDYEDGE 17 Mrs A Naughton 4-8-8	S Drowne 1
9	-006	FAILED TO HIT 19 (V,F) N Littmoden 4-8-7	T G McLaughlin 7
10	-220	EUROLINK THE LAD 43 (F,G) D Burchell 10-8-6	D McKeown 9
11	3010	WILDFIRE 43 (BF,G,S) R Akehurst 6-8-6	S Sanders 2
12	-310	BIG BANG 26 (CD,G) M Blanshard 3-8-4	J Quinn 6
13	0-05	BAILIWICK 19 (B,G) N Graham 4-8-4	D Holland 4

9-4 Shanghai Lil, 7-2 Captain's Day, 6-1 Bentico, 10-1 Tuigamala, 10-1 others.

8.30 FOLEY STEELS HANDICAP
(£5,732: 1m 6f 166yd) (11)

1	-100	OPERA BUFF 18 (C,F,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 6-10-0	Angela Gallimore (7) 2
2	304-	PURPLE SPLASH 493 (V,D,G,S) P Makin 7-9-13	S Sanders 7
3	2010	SUPER HIGH 66 (B,C,G) P Howling 5-9-9	F Norton 4
4	2/0-	DARK WATERS 250 N Graham 4-8-8	D Holland 9
5	5-12	SEDBERGH 18 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-4	J Quinn 5
6	3412	PREMIER DANCE 28 (CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 10-8-3	C Rutter 1
7	3322	NOUFARI 36 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 6-8-2	F Lynch (3) 8
8	2210	RANDOM KINDNESS 28 (C,BF,G) R Ingram 4-8-0	J F Egan 6
9	-200	ROYAL CITIZEN 14 (CD,G) J Bottomley 8-7-10	L Charnock 11
10	3100	*BARBARA'S JEWEL 18 (C,BF,G) A Bailey 5-7-10*	D Wright 3
11	0-30	ALL ON 25 (C,G) J Hetherton 6-7-10	R Mullen (5) 10

9-4 Sedbergh, 3-1 Noufari, 5-1 Purple Splash, 10-1 Dark Waters, Opera Buff, Premier Dance, 12-1 others.

9.00 STAR ENGINEERING SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £1,985: 5f) (6)

1	01	DIAMOND STEVE 7 (V,D,F) N Tinkler 9-3	Kim Tinkler 3
2	0	CARNATION KING 7 W G M Turner 8-12	D McGaffin (7) 1
3	05	WILFRED SHERMAN 18 J Berry 8-12	P Fessey (5) 6
4	56	*JACK-N-JILLY 19 J Moore 8-7*	*M Henry (3) 2*
5		LAWLESS BRIDGET M Meade 8-7	D Sweeney (5) 4
6	3346	PINK TICKET 4 P Evans 8-7	J F Egan 5

2-1 Diamond Steve, 3-1 Wilfred Sherman, 4-1 Pink Ticket, 9-2 Jack-N-Jilly, 8-1 Lawless Bridget, 12-1 Carnation King.

9.30 JOAN CHALK MEMORIAL HANDICAP
(£2,277: 7f) (12)

1	-152	SQUARE DEAL 18 (D,G) S Bowring 6-10-0	S Webster 1
2	3001	DRAGONJOY 18 (B,C,D,G) N Littmoden 4-10-0	R Lappin 8
3	-000	JOHNNIE THE JOKER 19 (B,CD,F) J Leigh 6-10-0	D McKeown 3
4	0-04	MERCURY 14 (G) J Glover 4-10-0	G Duffield 6
5	30-5	SIS GARDEN 31 (B,CD,G) J Cullinan 4-9-12	R Ffrench (5) 11
6	34-6	THEATRE MAGIC 18 (D,G) D Shaw 4-9-11	J Fanning 12
7	25-0	PRINCESS EFISIO 18 (C,G) B McMahon 4-9-11	L Newton 10
8	006-	SAMARA SONG 149J I Williams 4-9-11	D Holland 7
9	4234	JIGSAW BOY 19 (CD,F,G,S) P Murphy 8-9-9	*S Drowne 4*
10	0-05	FOLLY GOLIGHTLY 16 (F,G) M Blanshard 4-9-7	J Quinn 2
11	540-	BRANDONVILLE 260 N Tinkler 4-9-6	Kim Tinkler 5
12	0520	LOCH STYLE 10 (C,BF,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-4	F Lynch (3) 9

3-1 Dragonjoy, 7-2 Square Deal, 6-1 Jigsaw Boy, 7-1 Mercury, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Ingram, 7 winners from 23 runners, 30.4%; M Meade, 6 from 24, 25.0%; M Prescott, 19 from 84, 22.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 12 from 53, 22.6%; J Glover, 9 from 53, 17.0%; J F Bottomley, 4 from 25, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: D Sweeney, 8 winners from 39 rides, 20.5%; R Mullen, 5 from 25, 20.0%; K Sked, 3 from 17, 17.6%; R Lappin, 9 from 54, 16.7%; M J Dwyer, 4 from 25, 16.0%; G Carter, 31 from 217, 14.3%.

☐ Seven British runners contest the group two Italian 2,000 Guineas, the Premio Parioli, in Rome tomorrow. The Clive Brittain-trained Air Express (Brett Doyle), who finished a close third in last year's Dewhurst Stakes, is likely to start favourite. The other British raiders in the 14-runner field are Granny's Pet, Handsome Ridge, Hurricane State, Poseidon, Royal Aty and Sekari.

GOLF: OLAZABAL'S HEARTWARMING ACE TRUMPED BY ROZADILLA

Ballesteros's caddie fails to beat the cut

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADRID

ANOTHER chapter in the time-honoured battle between Severiano Ballesteros and the bag-carrying classes ended yesterday when Ballesteros and his caddie sacked each other. So what's new?

Ballesteros had just completed a round of 73 in second round of the Spanish Open at La Moraleja II when he announced that he and Martin Gray, his caddie for a little over a year, had parted company. He made it sound like a mutual decision, but there are a few out-of-work football managers around who could write a PhD thesis on the principles of what constitutes mutual consent. Usually, all that is mutual about it is that employer and employee agree that the underling has just been fired.

Ballesteros was positively funereal when he broke the news. "I want to tell you that Martin is not going to caddie for me any more," he intoned sombrely, as though announcing that his favourite dog had just been run over. "It seems that Martin has been disappointed with the way I have been playing."

Thus far, it sounded like Gray had taken the initiative to pull out of the partnership, but Ballesteros got closer to the truth, one suspects, when he added: "It seems to me that he did not have much energy on the golf course. We also had a little disagreement on the 6th hole, and it was after that that we decided to have a break from each other." Ballesteros put his ball into a lake on the 6th. Need more be said? Mutual consent? One thinks not.

Over the years Ballesteros has swapped caddies more frequently than Italians have changed their government. The count easily reaches double figures, and included in the list have been some of the best in the business. Some have stuck at it, some have had much shorter periods of office — Joey Jones, the Liverpudlian who had the job for only five weeks, is still in dispute with Ballesteros over his dismissal.

If Ballesteros's form this season — five appearances, five missed cuts — had been repeated here, Gray would have at least walked away no worse off. It is a small irony, however, that he got his marching orders on the very weekend that Ballesteros made his first cut of the season, on one under par.

The poisoned chalice that is a job as Ballesteros's caddie has been taken over for the rest of the tournament by Raul, his 16-year-old nephew. Ballesteros Jr, who plays off 2.4 himself, can only hope that familial blood runs thicker than water in Uncle Seve's veins this weekend.

Mark James, meanwhile, put together his best performance since he beat Jeff Maggert 4 and 3 in the singles in the 1995 Ryder Cup. James dived to 116th in the order of merit last year, by 84 places his lowest finish in 21 seasons in Europe, but here he has scored 67 and 68 to finish on nine under par, two ahead of Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn and Roger Chapman and three in front of Iain Pyman, Eduardo Romero and Rolf Muntz.

The final punctuation point was put on the day when José Maria Olazábal had a hole-in-one with a six-iron on the 17th. There was a car on offer for an ace at the hole, but Olazábal failed to collect — José Rozadilla had performed the feat earlier in the day. Olazábal, it is pleasing to report, showed plenty of energy on the golf course when the ball disappeared.

SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS: 135: M James 67, 68. 137: T Bjorn (Den) 68, 69; L Westwood 69, 68, R Chapman 70, 67. 138: I Pyman 68, 70, E Romero (Arg) 68, 70; R Muntz (Holl) 70, 68. 139: A Cojka (Ger) 66, 73, I Garbutt 69, 70; C Whitelaw 69, 70, P Mitchell 70, 69; G Norman (Aus) 69, 70; E Canonica (It) 72, 67, G Emerson 67, 72; J-L Guepy (Fr) 71, 68. 140: C Watts 71, 69; D Higgins 70, 70; S Torrance 70, 70, C Rocca (It) 70, 70; J M Olazábal (Sp) 69, 71. 141: F Valera (Sp) 69, 72; J Townsend (US) 73, 68; G Orr 72, 69, M Roe 70, 71; P Baker 73, 68; J Coceres (Arg) 72, 69; P Linhart (Sp) 71, 70; D Edlund (Swe) 73, 68; P Lawrie 72, 69; R Davis (Aus) 70, 71, G Clark 72, 69; D Howell 70, 71; A Hunter 70, 71.

There was no disputing who was boss when Ballesteros parted ways with his caddie yesterday

Lyle family fortunes looking up

SANDY LYLE, who returned to a putting style he discarded years ago and recruited his wife, Jolande, as his caddie, had an opening round of 66 in the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic in North Carolina to share the lead with Mike Hulbert and Robert Damron.

The Scot, who won this tournament in 1986 and 1988, birdied the first three holes of the Forest Oaks course on which players were allowed preferred lies after recent heavy rain.

He had seven birdies in a six-under-par round which left him a stroke ahead of a group including Tom Kite, the US Ryder Cup captain, and Steve Elkington, of Australia, leading money-winner on the US PGA Tour this season.

Lyle, who had a 79 in the opening round of the Heritage Classic last week and missed the cut, said: "That left me feeling pretty low. I played very badly and the frustration level was through the roof. My caddie [Max Cunningham] sacked me and I wasn't sure how I was going to handle this week."

Lyle, 39, looked no further for a new caddie than his wife, who used to carry her husband's bag occasionally, but has hasn't done so recently. He changed his putting stance after watching a tape recording of his victory in this tournament 11 years ago. He noticed that he stood with his hips squarer to the target in those days and, reasoning that he had nothing to lose, reverted to that style. Not once did he three-putt.

Scores, page 51

Barber booked for double

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

WHAT does a clerk of the course do when watering has commenced and rain starts falling? "We carry on," Richard Barber said yesterday from his Dorset farm, scene of the **Seavington** meeting tomorrow. "We had a storm this morning and it's drizzling now but that would not be enough."

As predicted, the start of the cricket season has induced some movement in the heavens and not a moment too soon for the point-to-pointing fraternity. However, the rains have come too late for the postponed **Berks & Bucks** and abandoned **East Sussex & Romney Marsh** fixtures, both crippled by hard ground.

Barber travels his exciting pair, Earthmover and Strong Chairman, to the **Berkeley** meeting today. Julian Pritchard's double at the **Cotswold** on Wednesday gives him a lead of six over Tim Mitchell in the men's title race.

Strong Chairman should reduce Mitchell's deficit, while Polly Gundry and Earthmover look too strong for Alison Dare's choice of Split Second or Sams Heritage in the ladies' race.

Pip Jones could be leading the women's championship tonight, having joined Shirley Vickery and Polly Curling on 16 winners last weekend. Jones has winning chances on Conna Moss, Gunner Boon and Keep Flowing for David Brace at the **Llangeinor** today, while her association with Robert Williams's Touch 'N' Pass should reap the ladies' open.

Touch 'N' Pass, a winner four times this year, keeps fit working for his owner's Bridgend trekking business but a rumour that Curling and Vickery tried to hire him for the rest of the season seems to be untrue.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Atherstone at Clifton-on-Dunsmore, 2m E of Rugby (first race 2.00); Berkeley, Woodford, 15m N of Bristol (2.00). Fife, Balcormo Mains, 3m N of Leven (2.00); Llangeinor, Margam, 2m S of town (2.00); Teme Valley, Brampton Bryan, 10m W of Ludlow (2.00); Tiverton Staghounds, Bratton Down, 10m N of Sth Molton (2.00); York & Ainsty, Easingwold, 14m NW of York (2.00)

TOMORROW: Grove & Rufford, at Southwell, inside NH course (2.00); Mid Devon, Black Forest Lodge, 4m SW of Exeter (1.00); Seavington, Littlewindsor, 3m S of Crewkerne (2.00); W Norfolk, Fakenham, inside NH course (2.00) Berks & Bucks, Barbury Castle (postponed to May 25 at Kingston Blount); E Sussex & Romney Marsh, Bexhill (abandoned)

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Knotty Hill. 2.30 Monopoly. 3.00 Mutabari. 3.30 Premier Generation. 4.05 Ramooz. 4.35 Doc Ryan's. 5.05 Machiavelli. 5.35 Rocky Oasis.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 **HAPPY MINSTRAL**.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.05 Tanaasa.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP
(£3,900: 5f 218yd) (17 runners)

1	(12)	3-00	PUSEY STREET GIRL 10 (G) M Bosley 4-10-0	Aimee Cook (5)	89
2	(10)	26-R	SAILORMAITE 57 (CD,G,S) S Bowring 6-9-9	S Webster	92
3	(9)	3-00	JO MELL 26 (G) T Easterby 4-9-9	M Birch	98
4	(6)	30-0	LA PETITE FUSEE 35 (D,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 6-9-8	J Bramhill (5)	95
5	(3)	0-00	KILDEE LAD 22 (CD,F,G) A Jones 7-9-7	T Sprake	91
6	(17)	000-	MISTER JOLSON 244 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-9-4	S Drowne	90
7	(4)	3-06	WEETMAN'S WEIGH 28 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-9-3	F Lynch (3)	90
8	(5)	400-	ENCHANTED GUEST 260 (D,G) V Soane 4-9-2	C Rutter	85
9	(16)	1020	KNOTTY HILL 26 (G) R Craggs 5-9-2	D Holland	96
10	(11)	0405	FRIENDLY BRAVE 8 (D,F,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 7-9-2	O Peslier	86
11	(1)	1-00	BAYIN 15 (CD,F,G,S) M Usher 8-9-1	R Street	95
12	(7)	0-33	MAITEAMIA 17 (B,D,G,S) S Bowring 4-9-1	J Quinn	97
13	(14)	301-	OGGI 190 (CD,F,G) P Makin 6-9-1	M Roberts	90
14	(12)	00-0	BENZOE 17 (D,F,S) Mrs J Ramsden 7-9-0	M Deering	[illegible]
15	(8)	164-	PERICLES 180 (D,G) M Johnston 3-8-10	R Hills	88
16	(13)	0620	SARIO 16 (G) A Bailey 4-8-9	D Wright	97
17	(15)	00-0	ROCKCRACKER 26 (D,F) G Margarson 5-7-12	G Bardwell	94

9-2 Oggi, 5-1 Maiteamia, 10-1 Pusey Street Girl, La Petite Fusee, 12-1 Mister Jolson, Friendly Brave, 16-1 others.

2.30 E B F WILLOUGHBY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,878: 5f 2yd) (16)

1	(16)	6	ARM AND A LEG 23 C Dwyer 9-0	J Stack	85
2	(4)		BLUE DESERT M Bell 9-0	M Fenton	–
3	(12)		BOLERO KID M W Easterby 9-0	M Wigham	–
4	(10)	2	KENNET 8 P Cundell 9-0	R Perham	[illegible]
5	(6)	0	LATIN BAY 28 P Harris 9-0	A Clark	–
6	(7)		LOBUCHE R Hannon 9-0	W J O'Connor	–
7	(9)		MONOPOLY M Johnston 9-0	M Roberts	–
8	(5)	3	QUIZ MASTER 17 E Weymes 9-0	J Quinn	93
9	(2)		RUZEN B Palling 9-0	T Sprake	–
10	(8)		AURIGNY S Dow 8-9	S Sanders	–
11	(14)		CINDER HILLS M W Easterby 8-9	T Lucas	–
12	(15)		LIBERALIS G Charles-Jones 8-9	C Rutter	–
13	(13)		MARI-ELA J Arnold 8-9	D Harrison	–
14	(1)	5	POSITIVE AIR B B McMahon 8-9	R Cochrane	–
15	(3)		SECRET TANGO A Jones 8-9	S Drowne	–
16	(11)		ZIG ZAG M Tompkins 8-9	D Biggs	–

3-1 Lobuche, 4-1 Monopoly, 5-1 Kennet, 6-1 Blue Desert, 10-1 Quiz Master, Zig Zag, 14-1 others.

3.00 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,678: 1m 3f 183yd) (9)

1	(9)	45-0	RECOURSE 11 H Cecil 9-7	A McGlone	88
2	(5)	21-2	HAPPY MINSTRAL 3 (F) M Johnston 9-7	D Holland	[illegible]
3	(7)	35-3	DRIVE ASSURED 28 C Brittain 9-5	M Roberts	89
4	(3)	01-	HENLEY 158 (G) D Loder 9-5	O Peslier	91
5	(8)	30-3	MUTABARI 9 D Morley 9-2	R Hills	93
6	(1)	00-1	TASIK CHINI 31 (D,G) P Cole 8-12	A Clark	92
7	(2)	310-	SWALLOW BREEZE 175 (F) J Scargill 8-9	S Drowne	87
8	(4)	15-0	CERTAIN MAGIC 26 (S) W Muir 8-4	M Henry (3)	91
9	(6)	306-	VENETIAN SCENE 180 P Cole 8-3	J Quinn	83

3-1 Happy Minstral, 100-30 Henley, 11-2 Recourse, 6-1 Drive Assured, Tasik Chini, 7-1 Mutabari, 8-1 Swallow Breeze, 10-1 others

3.35 TOTE TRIO HANDICAP
(£3,424: 1m 1f 218yd) (19)

1	(15)	66-0	ZERMATT 26 (D,F,S) M Usher 7-10-0	M Rimmer	93
2	(7)	150-	DRAMATIC MOMENT 255 (D,F) J Arnold 4-9-12	S Sanders	90
3	(10)	0-00	UTMOST ZEAL 18 (F) P Harris 4-9-10	C Lowther (7)	92
4	(1)	250-	MOCK TRIAL 42J (F) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-9	S Drowne	91
5	(17)	05-0	GAIN LINE 26 B Jones 4-9-8	A McGlone	[illegible]
6	(19)	010-	TONKA 57J (D,F,S) P Makin 5-9-6	D Harrison	93
7	(6)	3062	FATHER DAN 10 (D,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-2	G Duffield	96
8	(14)	55-4	PREMIER GENERATION 18 D Arbuthnot 4-9-1	S Whitworth	90
9	(2)	3203	MONO LADY 26 (B,G,S) D Haydn Jones 4-9-1	C Rutter	95
10	(9)	435-	DORMY THREE 26J (F,G) R Hodges 7-8-13	T Sprake	98
11	(18)	46-0	SULEIKA DANCER 16 S Knight 4-8-13	R Perham	93
12	(6)	20-4	KINNESCASH 17J (D,F,S) P Bowen 4-8-13	R Cochrane	92
13	(12)	452-	HAWKISH 228 (CD,F,S) D Morley 8-8-10	J Stack	88
14	(3)	40-5	AZTEC FLYER 49 C Brittain 4-8-9	M Roberts	95
15	(16)	3003	SOUTH EASTERN FRED 31 (D,F,G) H Collingridge 6-8-8	J Quinn	94
16	(3)	-311	PENDOLINO 10 (D,F,G) M Brittain 6-8-7	G Bardwell	95
17	(9)	/0-	COURAGEOUS KNIGHT 21J (F) P Hayward 6-8-6	W J O'Connor	–
18	(17)	4440	ARZANI 16 (D,G) D Cosgrove 6-8-6	R Hills	93
19	(13)	340-	AURELIAN 172 M Bell 3-8-5	M Fenton	95

5-1 Mock Trial, 6-1 Father Dan, 7-1 Mono Lady, Pendolino, 8-1 Hawkish, 10-1 South Eastern Fred, 12-1 others

4.05 TOTE LEICESTERSHIRE STAKES
(Listed race: £10,964: 7f 9yd) (10)

1	(6)	211-	WIZARD KING 167 (D,F,G,S) M Prescott 6-9-6	G Duffield	93
2	(7)	60-0	HELLO MISTER 8 (F,G,S) T Powell 6-8-12	P McCabe	82
3	(4)	/63-	HIGH SHOT 350 (G,S) G Lewis 7-8-12	A Whelan	58
4	(2)	105-	POLAR PRINCE 191 (D,F,G) M Jarvis 4-8-12	F Lynch	93
5	(8)	244-	RAMOOZ 182 (D,F,G,S) B Hanbury 4-8-12	M Rimmer	[illegible]
6	(10)	-010	RUSSIAN MUSIC 10 (B,D,F) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-12	S Sanders	98
7	(3)	266-	SERGEYEV 182 (D,F,G) R Hannon 5-8-12	W J O'Connor	98
8	(1)	10-0	TADISTE 26 (F,G) R Armstrong 4-8-12	R Price	57
9	(9)	564-	EL OPERA 226 (D,F) P Cole 4-8-7	O Peslier	91
10	(5)	332-	MISS RIVIERA 193 (F) G Wragg 4-8-7	A Clark	91

6-4 Wizard King, 4-1 Polar Prince, 5-1 Ramooz, 6-1 Miss Riviera, 10-1 others.

4.35 TOTE CREDIT HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £4,123: 1m 8yd) (19)

1	(4)	16-0	PENSION FUND 9 (F,G) M W Easterby 9-7	T Lucas	86
2	(18)	62-0	DOC RYAN'S 30 M Ryan 9-2	G Bardwell	97
3	(11)	4-45	WILD SKY 14 M Heaton-Ellis 9-2	A Clark	97
4	(13)	30-0	SMART BOY 11 (F) P Cole 9-1	J Bosley (7)	90
5	(15)	225-	INCLINATION 217 M Blanshard 8-13	J Quinn	89
6	(19)	000-	KLONDIKE CHARGER 180 B Hills 8-11	J D Smith (3)	87
7	(17)	056-	KENNEMARA STAR 202 J Dunlop 8-11	O Peslier	87
8	(9)	-252	JOLLY JACKSON 59 R Akehurst 8-9	S Sanders	93
9	(1)	1520	PUZZLEMENT 14 (D,G) C Brittain 8-8	M Roberts	96
10	(12)	520-	CANTON RON 159 C Dwyer 8-7	D R McCabe	80
11	(16)	000-	KEEPSAKE 190 M Usher 8-3	R Street	84
12	(3)	060-	BEAU ROBERTO 218 M Johnston 8-3	J Fanning	84
13	(7)	3633	MARDREW 15 (D,G) T Clement 8-2	A Daly (5)	[illegible]
14	(2)	00-5	THE GREEN GREY 15 W Muir 8-1	M Henry (3)	85
15	(5)	000-	SUN O'TIROL 212 (F) J Arnold 8-1	C Rutter	91
16	(10)	00-0	CARLTON 28 G Lewis 7-10	T Sprake	83
17	(8)	000-	DULAS BAY 185 M W Easterby 7-10	D Wright	84
18	(14)	000-	EURO SUPERSTAR 180 S Dow 7-10	R Mullen (5)	–
19	(6)	000-	ISCA MAIDEN 186 P Hayward 7-10	Aimee Cook (5)	–

6-1 Jolly Jackson, 8-1 Wild Sky, 10-1 Pension Fund, Carlton, 12-1 others.

5.05 REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: £3,573: 1m 1f 218yd) (16)

1	(8)		MEDIA STAR J Gosden 4-9-10	G Hind	–
2	(4)		MOUNT GENIUS D Cosgrove 4-9-10	M Rimmer	–
3	(3)		TRAMLINE M Blanshard 4-9-10	J Quinn	–
4	(16)	0-	CHARCOL 250 J Banks 4-9-5	M Wigham	–
5	(7)		KHAYALI D Morley 3-8-7	R Hills	–
6	(13)		MACHIAVELLI H Cecil 3-8-7	A McGlone	–
7	(15)	0-0	NICHOL FIFTY 11 M Tompkins 3-8-7	D Biggs	88
8	(5)	6	PURPLE MAIZE 16 J Akehurst 3-8-7	G Duffield	80
9	(11)	0-	SADLER'S BLAZE 226 P Harris 3-8-7	A Clark	88
10	(10)		SPARTAN ROYALE C Brittain 3-8-7	M Roberts	–
11	(12)	3-	TANAASA 180 M Stoute 3-8-7	O Peslier	88
12	(1)	0-	AQUAVITA 219 R Hannon 3-8-2	R Perham	–
13	(6)	43-	DANCING QUEEN 259 M Bell 3-8-2	M Fenton	95
14	(9)	30	LONDON'S HEART 10 P Cole 3-8-2	C Rutter	[illegible]
15	(2)	06-	THORNBY PARK 183 J Dunlop 3-8-2	T Sprake	98
16	(14)		WONTCOSTALOTBUT M Wilkinson 3-8-2	N Adams	–

2-1 Machiavelli, 3-1 Media Star, 6-1 Tanaasa, 8-1 Dancing Queen, 10-1 Spartan Royale, 14-1 Thornby Park, 16-1 others

5.35 REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: £3,451: 1m 1f 218yd) (16)

1	(14)	32-	KING KATO 208 Mrs A Perrett 4-9-10	A Clark	93
2	(13)	6	LEATHERNECK 18 P Mooney 4-9-10	P McCabe (3)	–
3	(7)	6	MR MONTAGUE 10 T Donnelly 5-9-10	J Quinn	–
4	(10)	0-0	NEEDWOOD LEGEND 10 B Morgan 4-9-10	D Harrison	–
5	(16)	/2-0	ROCKY OASIS 10 M Stoute 4-9-10	O Peslier	[illegible]
6	(4)	0/	SASSY STREET 28J R Johnson Houghton 4-9-10	R Perham	–
7	(9)	4	URGENT REPLY 16 C Dwyer 4-9-10	J D Smith (3)	75
8	(11)		GLOWING MOON 56J Miss G Kelleway 4-9-5	W J O'Connor	–
9	(2)	24-4	BINTANG TIMOR 9 P Cole 3-8-7	C Rutter	96
10	(15)	4644	GET THE POINT 9 R Hollinshead 3-8-7	F Lynch (3)	88
11	(12)	0-0	GOLD CLIPPER 18 M Ryan 3-8-7	N Day	–
12	(1)	5	MUMARIS 18 A Stewart 3-8-7	R Hills	–
13	(5)	0	RATB 10 S Dow 3-8-7	A Daly (5)	–
14	(8)		SARBARON P Harris 3-8-7	D O'Donohoe (3)	–
15	(3)	000-	WELCOME HEIGHTS 179 M Fetherston-Godley 3-8-7	D Holland	–
16	(6)	00-	NICK OF TIME 186 J Dunlop 3-8-2	T Sprake	–

11-4 Bintang Timor, 9-2 Rocky Oasis, 6-1 Get The Point, 7-1 King Kato, 8-1 Urgent Reply, 12-1 Glowing Moon, 14-1 Mumaris, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Loder, 7 winners from 18 runners, 38.9%. H Cecil, 19 from 70, 27.1%; P Makin, 5 from 22, 22.7%. M Stoute, 13 from 58, 22.4%. J Gosden, 13 from 64, 20.3%. S Bowring, 5 from 25, 20.0%

JOCKEYS: J Stack, 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%. S Sanders, 6 from 36, 16.7%. F Lynch, 6 from 42, 14.3%; C Rutter, 8 from 61, 13.1%. A Clark, 7 from 61, 11.5%. D Holland, 7 from 63, 11.1%

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.05 Finsbury Flyer. 2.35 Going Places. 3.05 Express Girl. 3.40 Dirab. 4.15 Lawahik. 4.50 Paint It Black. 5.20 Legal Right.

GOING: GOOD SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.05 YORKSHIRE IMPERIAL BAND SELLING STAKES (£2,790: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

1	5025	NORTHERN FAN 19 (G) N Tinkler 5-10-0	D McKeown 4
2	00-0	ACTION JACKSON 32 (D,F,G) B McMath 5-9-10	J Tate 13
3	000-	ASTROLABE 306 (B,F) J Bradley 5-9-10	J F Egan 1
4	51/0	DURGAMS FIRST 19 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-10	A Culhane 10
5	433-	FINSBURY FLYER 276 (G) R Hodges 4-9-10	P P Murphy (5) 11
6	/050	TAJAR 26 (B) M Dods 5-9-10	Dale Gibson 12
7	0-65	TEN PAST SIX 15 (F) M Wane 5-9-10	J Carroll 5
8	00	INCANTRICE 24 W Storey 4-9-5	J Fanning 3
9	00-0	PHILGEM 21 C Fairhurst 4-9-5	N Kennedy 9
10	000-	SAFA DANCER 226 B McMahon 4-9-5	S Righton (7) 2
11	026-	SHE'S SIMPLY GREAT 202J J J O'Neill 4-9-5	W Ryan 7
12	6-06	YUPPY GIRL 10 (V) J H Wilson 4-9-5	J Weaver 6
13	D	CLEAN SWOP 8 T Easterby 3-8-7	L Charnock 8

7-2 Finsbury Flyer, 4-1 Ten Past Six, 9-2 Durgams First, 7-1 Northern Fan, 8-1 Action Jackson, She's Simply Great, 10-1 Clean Swop, 12-1 others

2.35 YORKSHIRE TOURIST BOARD NOVICE AUCTION FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,830: 5f) (8)

1	23	FLOWER O'CANNIE 26 M W Easterby 8-8	G Parkin (5) 5
2	1	LADY MOLL 31 (D,G) R Boss 8-6	J Carroll 7
3	0331	FILEY BRIGG 16 (D,S) W Kemp 8-3	K Sked (7) 3
4		GOLDEN MIRAGE M Channon 8-2	P P Murphy (5) 8
5		SHARP PET D McCain 8-2	M Baird (3) 6
6	53	GOING PLACES 10 K Ivory 7-13	Martin Dwyer (3) 4
7		PETITE LADY P Evans 7-13	J F Egan 1
8		SYLVAN CLOUD C Fairhurst 7-13	L Charnock 2

5-2 Lady Moll, 3-1 Flower O'Cannie, 5-1 Filey Brigg, 7-1 Golden Mirage, 8-1 Going Places, Petite Lady, 12-1 Sylvan Cloud, 33-1 Sharp Pet.

3.05 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,664: 6f) (18)

1	0-00	RUDE AWAKENING 9 (F) C Fairhurst 9-7	D McKeown 5
2	5-61	DOUBLE-O 43 (D,G) W Jarvis 9-5	D Urbina 8
3	25-1	MON BRUCE 18 (D,G) W Muir 9-4	J Weaver 17
4	0-01	LEVELLED 16 (F,G) M Channon 9-2	P P Murphy (5) 9
5	1-42	RETURN OF AMIN 16 (G,S) J Bethell 9-0	Martin Dwyer (3) 18
6	122-	GIPSY PRINCESS 189 (BF,F) M W Easterby 8-13	G Parkin (5) 7
7	0-00	EXPRESS GIRL 10 (S) D Moffatt 8-13	Darren Moffatt (3) 6
8	50-3	WAGGA MOON 15 J J O'Neill 8-11	W Ryan 15
9	3604	SUPERCHARMER 8 D Nicholls 8-11	Alex Greaves 1
10	1165	C-HARRY 14 (D,G,S) R Hollinshead 8-11	A Culhane 12
11	00-5	GABLESEA 28 B Baugh 8-10	N Carlisle 10
12	000-	DENTON LAD 189 J Watts 8-10	N Connorton 2
13	-444	SPLASHED 31 T Barron 8-8	J Carroll 4
14	62-1	ROYAL CASCADE 73 (D,G) B McMahon 8-8	L Newton 11
15	3-02	ALWAYS ALIGHT 15 (B) K Burke 8-6	J F Egan 13
16	0-30	BOLD GAYLE 10 (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 8-5	G Carter 14
17	2310	SWIFT 26 (G) M Polglase 8-1	L Charnock 3
18	4-00	WILLIAM'S WELL 15 M W Easterby 7-10	Dale Gibson 16

6-1 Double-O, 7-1 Levelled, Always Alight, 8-1 Return Of Amin, Mon Bruce, 10-1 Supercharmer, Bold Gayle, Royal Cascade, 12-1 others

3.40 C B HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap: £6,288: 2m) (9)

1	110-	BERLIN BLUE 249 (C,BF,F,G) J Watts 4-10-0	J Carroll 5
2	530-	HIGHFLYING 196 (CD,F,G,S) G M Moore 11-9-12	J Tate 7
3	0-36	DIRAB 31 (D,F,G) T Barron 4-9-5	W Ryan 9
4	50-1	TURNPOLE 16 (F,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-3	A Culhane 3
5	23-2	SIEGE PERILOUS 28 (BF,F) S Williams 4-9-0	Martin Dwyer (3) 8
6	/0-2	LA BRIEF 32 (D,G,S) M Ryan 5-8-8	G Carter 2
7	010-	ALWARDA 106J (BF,F,G) Miss J Bower 4-8-7	K Hodgson 4
8	000/	JUBRAN 28J (C,F,G) J Eyre 11-8-2	T Williams 1
9	-124	HERE COMES HERBIE 12 (D,F,G) W Storey 5-8-1	P Fessey (5) 6

3-1 Siege Perilous, 7-2 Turnpole, 4-1 Berlin Blue, 6-1 Highflying, 7-1 Dirab, 8-1 La Brief, Here Comes Herbie, 10-1 others

4.15 YORKSHIRE DALES MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,550: 1m 2f) (9)

1	3	BANBURY 28 J Watts 9-0	J Carroll 1
2	6-	DOUBLE ALLEGED 178 M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver 7
3	0-	FATAL SAHRA 185 J Gosden 9-0	Dale Gibson 8
4	3	LAWAHIK 26 D Morley 9-0	G Carter 6
5	3	MONITOR 11 H Cecil 9-0	W Ryan 3
6	00-0	OUT OF SIGHT 7 B McMahon 9-0	L Newton 5
7		TONIGHT'S PRIZE C Wall 9-0	N Carlisle 4
8		BAHR ALSALAAM J Gosden 8-9	A Garth 9
9		SAVU SEA C Wall 8-9	A Culhane 2

7-2 Monitor, 9-2 Banbury, 11-2 Lawahik, 6-1 Bahr Alsalaam, 7-1 Double Alleged, Fatal Sahra, 8-1 Out Of Sight, 10-1 others

4.50 BBC RADIO YORK PRO-AM LADIES HANDICAP (£2,986: 1m) (20)

1	00-0	KNOBBLEENEEZE 38 (V,D,G) M Channon 7-11-0	Candy Morris 19
2	000-	MARJAANA 183 (G) P Walwyn 4-10-11	Sarah Stanworth (5) 17
3	4-62	DISPOL GEM 8 P Calver 4-10-10	Diana J Jones 6
4	4501	PAINT IT BLACK 8 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 4-10-7	Alex Greaves 13
5	460-	JUNGLE FRESH 49J J Bethell 4-10-4	Miss E Johnson Houghton 14
6	60-3	CHARLTON IMP 28 (D,F,G) R Hodges 4-10-3	Amanda Sanders 10
7	4-05	BELLAS GATE BOY 44 J Pearce 5-9-13	Lydia Pearce 2
8	/000	HIGH LOW 8 (D,F,G) M Hammond 9-9-13	Alison Smith (5) 7
9	0-00	EURO SCEPTIC 8 (B,D,F,G) T Easterby 5-9-13	Victoria Appleby 16
10	550-	ABTAAL 235 (G) R Hodges 7-9-12	Carol Ann Williams (5) 5
11	0-03	SQUARED AWAY 5 (B,D,F) J Payne 5-9-10	Catherine Lake (5) 3
12	15-0	SHOULDBEGREY 18 (D,S) W Muir 4-9-7	Sophie Mitchell 12
13	5440	SHERAZ 10 (B,D,G) N Tinkler 5-9-5	Kim Tinkler 1
14	000-	HABETA 185 (CD,F,G) J Watts 11-9-4	Emma Ramsden (5) 20
15	04-0	ASTERIX 10 (B,C,D,F,G) J Bradley 9-9-3	Kimberley Hart 15
16	-063	RETURN TO BRIGHTON 18 (CD,F) J Bradley 5-9-2	Angela Gallimore 9
17	00-0	KATIE KOMAITE 40 J H Wilson 4-9-2	Angela Hartley (5) 4
18	-022	BEDAZZLE 12 (D,BF,G) M Brittain 6-9-1	Jo Hannam 8
19	00-0	APPEARANCE MONEY 26J F Murphy 6-8-12	Jenny Benson (5) 18
20	0120	EASTLEIGH 30 (D,G,S) R Hollinshead 8-8-12	Lisa Watson (5) 11

4-1 Paint It Black, 6-1 Charlton Imp, 7-1 Dispol Gem, 8-1 Marjaana, Knobbleeneeze, 10-1 Squared Away, 12-1 Jungle Fresh, 14-1 others

5.20 YORKSHIRE CANCER RESEARCH CONDITIONS STAKES (£4,448: 1m 4f 60yd) (5)

1	010-	GREENSTEAD 231 (BF,G) J Gosden 4-9-1	J Carroll 4
2	342-	HARBOUR DUES 180 (D,BF,F,S) Lady Herries 4-9-1	W Ryan 5
3	50-0	LEGAL RIGHT 28 (B,G) P Chapple-Hyam 4-9-1	R Havlin (3) 1
4	400-	STAR SELECTION 28J (S) J Mackie 6-8-12	J Weaver 3
5	206-	KAILEY SENOR 283 R Armstrong 4-8-11	G Carter 2

5-4 Harbour Dues, 2-1 Greenstead, 5-1 Legal Right, Star Selection, 16-1 Kailey Senor

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Chapple-Hyam, 4 winners from 7 runners, 57.1%. H Cecil, 13 from 33, 39.4%. J Gosden, 15 from 51, 29.4%; M Johnston, 17 from 102, 16.7%. M Channon, 4 from 28, 14.3%

JOCKEYS: D Urbina, 5 winners from 17 rides, 29.4%. W Ryan, 15 from 60, 25.0%; L Newton, 3 from 13, 23.1%; J Weaver, 19 from 87, 21.8%. G Carter, 10 from 69, 14.5%

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

2.10 Lebedinski. 2.45 Moobakkr. 3.15 Daring Past. 3.50 Imperial Vintage. 4.25 Talathath. 5.00 Highbeath. 5.30 Siren Song.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 APRIL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,937: 2m 1f 110yd) (17 runners)

1	4031	OUR ROBERT 26 (CD,F,S) J Fitzgerald 5-12-0	F Leahy (3)
2	P155	EVEZIO RUFO 7 (B,F) N Littmoden 5-11-6	K Gaule
3	P440	EUROLINK THE REBEL 5 (F) S Clark 5-11-2	Miss R Clark (7)
4	2654	IRIE MON 205 (CD,F) M Bielby 5-11-1	Mr A Wintle (7)
5	3650	GOLF LAND 25 L Lungo 5-11-0	R Supple
6	0620	NOIR ESPRIT 12 (V) J Carr 4-10-9	N Smith
7	064	MR GOLD 102 J Parkes 4-10-8	K Johnson
8	5404	SIMAND 26 (G) G Moore 5-10-7	J Callaghan
9	0004	LEBEDINSKI 26 Mrs P Sly 4-10-4	V Smith
10	0253	SUMMER VILLA 26 (B) K Wingrove 5-10-2	W Marston
11	0004	TSANGA 39 G Moore 5-10-1	N Bentley
12	0-50	BOLD TOP 10F B Rothwell 5-10-0	B Storey
13	0006	PETRICO 26 P Beaumont 5-10-0	B Grattan (5)
14	000	AFRICAN SUN 38 M Chapman 4-10-0	W Worthington
15	00P0	PORT VALENSKA 26 Mrs J Conway 4-10-0	S Taylor (5)
16	000	QUEEN'S COUNSEL 22 Miss M Milligan 4-10-0	A S Smith
17	0PU-	TURRILL HOUSE 100F W Musson 5-10-0	B Powell

7-2 Our Robert, 9-2 Golf Land, 5-1 Simand, 7-1 Evezio Rufo, 8-1 Irie Mon, 10-1 Tsanga, Mr Gold, 12-1 Summer Villa, Lebedinski, 14-1 others.

2.45 GET AWAY FROM THE ELECTION HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,273: 2m 5f 110yd) (18)

1	/66	KINDA GROOVY 25 (B,D,F,G) I Park 8-11-10	J Callaghan
2	0220	DESERT FORCE 28 (F,G,S) G Fierro 8-11-7	X Aizpuru (5)
3	1020	TIP IT IN 52 (C,G,S) A Smith 8-11-6	P Midgley (3)
4	F613	CASH BOX 19 (BF,G) T Carr 9-11-5	N Smith
5	3414	CAMBO 26 (CD,F,G,S) M Banks 11-11-2	D Skyrme
6	0201	AMAZING SAIL 22 (D,F) Miss M Milligan 4-10-12	A S Smith
7	4P36	DANTES AMOUR 19 M Hammond 6-10-12	R Garritty
8	P4U3	MOOBAKKR 17 (CD,F,G,S) K Morgan 6-10-10	B Powell
9	/0-3	DOVETTO 47 A Price 8-10-10	Mr R Thornton (3)
10	0300	JAYFCEE 26 M Bielby 5-10-9	J Culloty
11	2342	HANCOCK 5 (BF) J Hetherton 5-10-9	W Marston
12	0304	AJDAR 7 (G) O Brennan 6-10-5	M Brennan
13	1302	SHELTON ABBEY 46 (B,F,G,S) J Wade 11-10-1	B Storey
14	0600	MARSH'S LAW 26 (B,C,F,G,S) G Kelly 10-10-0	L McGrath (7)
15	00-2	NITE SPRITE 22 R Barr 7-10-0	N Horrocks (7)
16	/UF	THE WEATHERMAN 70 A Jessop 9-10-0	T Kent
17	5/-0	COUP DE VENT 54 Mrs V Ward 7-10-0	P Henley (3)
18	0000	RUBISLAW 26 (V) Mrs K Lamb 5-10-0	Miss S Lamb (7)

6-1 Amazing Sail, 7-1 Dovetto, Tip It In, 8-1 Cash Box, Hancock, 9-1 Cambo, 10-1 Moobakkr, 12-1 Ajdar, Shelton Abbey, 14-1 others.

3.15 UK HYGIENE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,209: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)

1	F425	DARING PAST 9 (F,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-10	R Garritty
2	4231	TAPATCH 22 (B,F,G) M W Easterby 9-11-8	Mr R Thornton (3)
3	6334	REVE DE VALSE 14 (D,F,G,S) R Johnson 10-11-0	K Johnson
4	041P	KARLOVAC 169 (F) S Chadwick 11-10-4	F Perratt
5	2P43	COPPER CABLE 26 C Smith 10-10-1	M Ranger
6	60FU	DASH TO THE PHONE 32 K Morgan 5-10-0	W Marston
7	0U-P	BALI TENDER 12 J Wharton 6-10-0	F Leahy (3)

2-1 Daring Past, 3-1 Tapatch, 9-2 Reve de Valse, 7-1 Dash To The Phone, 8-1 Copper Cable, Karlovac, 20-1 Bali Tender.

3.50 EUROBALE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,910: 2m 4f) (6)

1	14F1	IMPERIAL VINTAGE 17 (D,F,G) Miss V Williams 7-11-12	Mr R Thornton (3)
2	F12U	MISTER DRUM 26 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) M Wilkinson 8-11-12	W Marston
3	PPF3	CARDINAL SINNER 53 J Wade 8-11-2	B Storey
4	02P4	CHIAPPUCCI 5 (B,G,S) Mrs E Heath 7-11-2	J Magee (3)
5	65PF	MONKS SOHAM 26 G Hubbard 9-11-2	P Henley (3)
6	0002	BOWLES PATROL 26 J Upson 5-10-8	R Supple

11-8 Mister Drum, 6-4 Imperial Vintage, 4-1 Monks Soham, 16-1 others

4.25 SANDERSON TELEPORTERS NOVICES HURDLE (£3,157: 2m 3f 110yd) (16)

1	2141	TALATHATH 10 (F,G) D Nicholson 5-11-12	Mr R Thornton (3)
2	6040	DONNEGALE 33 T Tate 5-11-0	J Callaghan
3	05-4	GIPSY GEOF 26 G Hubbard 6-11-0	L Aspell (3)
4	0502	LARKSHILL 40 J Fitzgerald 6-11-0	F Leahy (3)
5	36-4	M-I-FIVE 26 (F,G) Ronald Thompson 6-11-0	D Pears
6	P-0P	MOOR DANCE MAN 102 N Littmoden 7-11-0	D Verco
7	/P-4	NEBAAL 64 (G) G Barnett 7-11-0	X Aizpuru (5)
8	0606	BELLIDIUM 39 A Jessop 5-10-9	T Kent
9		CAN SHE CAN CAN 301F C Smith 5-10-9	M Ranger
10	135	POPPY'S DREAM 17 (F) J Wharton 7-10-9	A S Smith
11	4033	RAISE A DOLLAR 12 P Beaumont 7-10-9	R Supple
12	0P-	SPRINGFIELD RHYME 473 S Gollings 6-10-9	K Gaule
13	0-65	TEEJAY'S FUTURE 28 O Brennan 6-10-9	M Brennan
14	P	ALPHETON PRINCE 50 J A Harris 4-10-7	J Supple
15	50	APACHE LEN 9 M Hammond 4-10-7	R Garritty
16	44	MAZAMET 91 O O'Neill 4-10-7	V Slattery

11-10 Talathath, 7-2 Larkshill, 5-1 Mazamet, 10-1 Gipsy Geof, 12-1 M-I-Five, Teejay's Future, 14-1 Poppy's Dream, 16-1 others.

5.00 TONY EDWARDS & GEOFF HUNTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,300: 2m 4f) (10)

1	2153	SHINING LIGHT 50 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 8-11-13	Mr R Thornton (3)
2	4312	CROSS CANNON 39 (C,BF,F,G) J Wade 11-11-6	B Storey
3	3241	RUSTIC AIR 22 (C,D,F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 10-11-3	R Garritty
4	4506	BALLY PARSON 7 (C,D,F,G) R Dickin 11-11-1	X Aizpuru (5)
5	3P53	MERRY PANTO 7 (B,F,G) C Brooks 8-10-11	M Berry (7)
6	13P-	ALLIMAC NOMIS 466 (F,G) M Hammond 8-10-1	D Bentley
7	0541	HIGHBEATH 54 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-0	L Wyer
8	P552	CHEEKA 12 C Smith 6-10-0	M Ranger
9	2554	JUKE BOX BILLY 40 (F,G) Mrs J Brown 9-10-0	A S Smith
10	UP00	CALL ME EARLY 12 (C,F,G) D Shaw 12-10-0	M Brennan

3-1 Merry Panto, 7-2 Shining Light, 4-1 Rustic Air, 5-1 Highbeath, 7-1 Cross Cannon, 12-1 Bally Parson, 16-1 others

5.30 SPRING STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,403: 1m 5f 110yd) (20)

1	11-2	SIREN SONG 7 (G) C Mann 6-12-0	J Magee (3)
2		ANGRY NATIVE J Wade 5-11-4	S Taylor (5)
3		DERRING DOVE A Price 5-11-4	F Leahy (3)
4	3	DOUBLE STAR 26 J L Harris 6-11-4	Mr R Thornton (3)
5		NEW ROSS O O'Neill 5-11-4	L Suthern (7)
6		SPANISH SECRET N Littmoden 5-11-4	C Webb (5)
7	0F4F	CAHERMONE LADY 21P R Whitaker 6-10-13	Mr N Kent
8		MADDIE W Haigh 5-10-13	M Newton (7)
9		MISS MOUSE P Mooney 5-10-13	Mr C Bonner (3)
10		SWEET LITTLE BRIAR G Bravery 6-10-13	G Lee
11		PACKITIN PARKY D McCain 4-10-12	D Burrows (5)
12		ROUTE ONE C Brooks 4-10-12	M Berry (7)
13		ROYAL MINT T Thomson Jones 4-10-12	X Aizpuru (5)
14		THE BOMBERS MOON Mrs E Heath 4-10-12	B Grattan (5)
15		AILSAE Mrs J Brown 4-10-7	E Callaghan (3)
16		BRED FOR PLEASURE W Cunningham 4-10-7	L McGrath (7)
17	30	CAPSOFF 26 G Hubbard 4-10-7	L Aspell (3)
18	42	CUE CALL 28 Mrs D Haine 4-10-7	P Henley (3)
19		HONEYSUCKLE ROSE I Lloyd-James 4-10-7	R Massey (5)
20		LAKE ARIA Mrs A Naughton 4-10-7	Mr T J Barry (7)

4-5 Siren Song, 5-1 Cue Call, 7-1 Double Star, 8-1 Royal Mint, 10-1 others.

Ganay draws Helissio

HELISSIO and Pilsudski, the first two in last October's Forte Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, clash in the first European group one race of the season, the Prix Ganay, at Longchamp tomorrow.

Helissio, withdrawn from the Dubai World Cup at the last minute because of wet conditions, last raced when dead-heating for third with Strategic Choice in the Japan Cup in Tokyo on November 24. Olivier Peslier will again partner the Elie Lellouche-trained colt, but Michael Kinane takes over from Walter Swinburn aboard the Michael Stoute-trained Pilsudski, who won the Breeders' Cup Turf at Toronto.

The other British-trained runners are the Paul Cole-trained Strategic Choice (Richard Quinn) and Mark Prescott's Last Second (George Duffield).

On the same card, Peter Chapple-Hyam saddles Heron Island (Kinane) for the group three Prix Barbeville.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.05 (5f 6yd) 1, DAUNTING LADY (Pat Eddery, 100-30 fav), 2, Phone Alex (Dane O'Neill, 12-1); 3, Silent Pride (M Roberts, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Miss Hit, 6 Fayrana, 8 Sun In The Morning (5th), 9 Lisa's Pride, 10 Patsy Culsyth (6th), 12 Shalabella, 20 Tundra, 25 Fast Tempo (4th), Universal Lady, 33 Blarney Park, Fleet Lady, 40 After Dawn. 15 ran. 2l, 2½l, ¾l, hd, 2½l. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £2.90; £1.80, £2.90, £8.00. DF: £11.10. Trio: £313.40. CSF: £38.25

2.35 (1m 14yd) 1, ROMANOV (J Reid, 7-2); 2, Harry Wolton (W Ryan, 12-1), 3, Kornl (Pat Eddery, 2-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Lataiomne (5th), 7-2 Military (4th), 12 Greenaway Bay (6th). 6 ran. NR: Desert Horizon. Nk, 5l, nk, 1½l, 1½l. P Chapple-Hyam at Manton. Tote: £4.00; £2.60, £3.60. DF: £26.60. CSF: £38.56

3.10 (1m 14yd) 1, WIXIM (Pat Eddery, 5-1); 2, First Island (M Hills, 5-6 fav); 3, Bin Rosie (T Quinn, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Beauchamp King (6th), 14 Centre Stalls, 33 Gothenberg (4th), Royal Philosopher, 40 Achame (5th). 8 ran. Hd, ½l, sh hd, ½l, 7l. R Charlton at Beckhampton. Tote: £5.50; £1.30, £1.30, £1.40. DF: £3.80. CSF: £8.25.

3.40 (2m 78yd) 1, ETTERBY PARK (J Weaver, 9-2), 2, Jamaican Flight (J Fortune, 9-1); 3, Soojama (S Drowne, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Unchanged, 9-2 Northern Fleet (4th), Shadirwan (6th), 12 Colendge (5th), Sharal. 8 ran. 2½l, 6l, 2½l, 2½l, ¾l. M Johnston at Middleham. Tote: £4.30; £1.90, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £26.60. CSF: £38.37 Tricast: £313.58.

4.10 (1m 14yd) 1, STAR TALENT (R Cochrane, 10-1), 2, Give Me A Ring (D McKeown, 11-1); 3, Star Manager (T Quinn, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Alhawa (4th), 11-2 Samara, 9 Night Dance, 10 Rakis (6th), 11 Pomona, 14 Stone Ridge (5th), Wakeel, 16 Night Wink, 25 Amber Fort, Themea, 33 Pater Noster. 14 ran. 1¼l, sh hd, ½l, 2½l, ½l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £12.40; £2.90, £3.20, £2.20. DF: £47.60. Trio: £65.50. CSF: £114.51. Tricast: £794.57.

4.46 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, UKRAINE VENTURE (W Ryan, 13-2); 2, Alcalali (Pat Eddery, 100-30 fav), 3, Go For Salt (J Reid, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Leading Note (5th), 6 Snouk (ur), 8 Quest For Best, 12 La Curamalal (6th), 14 Divinity, 16 Alltandango, 25 Book At Bedtime (4th), Silankka. 11 ran. NR: Rocky Dance. 10l, nk, 3l, hd, 1½l. S Woods at Newmarket. Tote: £7.80; £2.00, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £10.40. Trio: £18.90. CSF: £27.65.

5.20 (5f 6yd) 1, GONE SAVAGE (R Cochrane, 6-1); 2, Literary Society (S Sanders, 9-1); 3, Broadstairs Beauty (K Fallon, 5-1). 4, Eastern Prophets (Paul Eddery, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Ellens Lad (6th), 11 Cim Bom Bom, 12 Pointer (5th), Splicing, 14 Half Tone, Mr Bergerac, 16 Longwick Lad, Lord High Admiral, Rififi, 20 High Domain, 25 Sweet Magic, 33 Dande Flyer, Mindrace. 17 ran. 1¼l, ¾l, 1½l, ¾l, 1¼l. W Musson at Newmarket. Tote: £5.80; £1.80, £4.50, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £65.80. Trio: £43.90. CSF: £60.90. Tricast: £226.97

Jackpot: £6,454.50.

Placepot: £48.70. Quadpot: £9.30.

Perth

Going: good

2.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, BRECON (P Niven, 7-4 fav); 2, Sadler's Realm (G Tormey, 4-1); 3, Double Agent (P Carberry, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Gold Of Arabia, 15-2 Priddy Fair (4th), 50 Political Mandate (6th), Thorntoun House (5th). 7 ran. 4l, sh hd, 12l, 5l, 5l. W Muir at Lambourn. Tote: £2.40; £1.90, £2.80. DF: £8.40. CSF: £7.82.

2.45 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, IFALLELSEFAILS (W Dowling, 7-2 fav), 2, Sandrift (F Leahy, 10-1); 3, Skane River (R Burns, 20-1). 4, Eternal City (G Lee, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Fanadiyr (6th), 10 Whitegatesprincess, 12 Parish Walk (5th), Weather Alert (pu), 14 Precipice Run, 16 Don't Tell Judy (pu), Playful Juliet, Strathmore Lodge (pu), 20 Barnstormer, 33 Dashmar, Father O'Brien, 40 Shut Up, 100 Akito Racing, Lyford Cay, Meadowleck. 19 ran. 3l, 1½l, 10l, ½l, 8l. L Lungo at Carrutherstown. Tote: £4.20; £2.20, £3.30, £4.50, £2.20. DF: £29.30. Trio: £53.90. CSF: £33.93. Tricast: £585.19

3.15 (3m ch) 1, UNGUIDED MISSILE (R Dunwoody, 1-5 fav), 2, Rectory Garden (P Carberry, 5-1), 3, Temple Garth (R Supple, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 100 Snook Point (pu). 4 ran. 1¼l, dist. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £1.20. DF: £1.40. CSF: £1.63.

3.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, TEEJAY'N'AITCH (S Taylor, 5-1), 2, Fairelaine (C O'Dwyer, 25-1); 3, Reach The Clouds (R Supple, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Sir Clerks, 5 Shinerolla, 6 Brumon, Jessolle (pu), 8 Kildrummy Castle (5th), 10 Star Master (6th), 12 Parson's Lodge (4th), 14 Last Try, Paparazzo, 33 Maple Bay, The Stuffed Puffin (pu). 14 ran. Sh hd, 1½l, 1½l, 3½l, nk. J Goldie at Kilmarnock. Tote: £7.00; £2.50, £5.70, £9.70. DF: £211.50. Trio: not won (pool of £597.39 carried forward to 3.35 at Leicester today). CSF: £125.16. Tricast: £2,176.31

4.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, MALTA MAN (A S Smith, 7-1), 2, Solomon's Dancer (R Dunwoody, 2-9 fav); 3, Walls Court (L O'Hara, 66-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Tall Measure (pu). 4 ran. 2½l, dist. P Cheesbrough at Bishop Auckland. Tote: £5.70. DF: £2.00. CSF: £8.86

4.55 (2m 110yd flat) 1, LORD PODGSKI (G Cahill, 3-1 fav); 2, Time Warrior (N Hannity, 14-1); 3, Wellswood (E Callaghan, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Crystal Jewel, Trouble Ahead (5th), 9-2 Tara Gale (4th), 10 General Manager, 14 Run For The Mill, 20 Ballymana Boy (6th), 25 Juniper Hill, 100 Meggie Scott, The True Miller, 200 Non Non Joesephine. 13 ran. 3l, 2½l, 3l, 5l, hd. P Monteith at Rosewell. Tote: £4.30; £2.00, £4.00, £4.70. DF: £83.50. Trio: £209.30. CSF: £44.00

5.25 (2m 110yd flat) 1, LIGHT THE FUSE (C O'Dwyer, 5-4 fav), 2, China King (P Carberry, 5-1), 3, Easby Blue (P Niven, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 10 Geegee Emmarr, 25 The Chase, 33 Sabu (5th), Toberlone, Toby (4th), 100 Calling The Tune (6th), Hansel's Streak, Jo Lightning, Tidal Race. 12 ran. 7l, 2½l, 3l, 4l, 20l. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £3.70. Trio: £1.50. CSF: £6.63

Placepot: £2,545.90. Quadpot: £503.30.

Carlisle

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.20 (5f) 1, Timekeeper (M Fenton, 4-6 fav), 2, Prix Star (20-1); 3, Oh Never Again (9-4). 8 ran. NR: Malozza. 2l, 1¾l. M Bell. Tote: £1.20; £1.10, £3.90, £1.50. DF: £12.50. Trio: £10.60. CSF: £20.14

2.55 (6f 206yd) 1, High Premium (R Winston, 7-2), 2, Brocture Gold (3-1 fav), 3, Kemo Sabo (10-1). 13 ran. Nk, 1½l. R Fahey. Tote: £4.80; £2.20, £1.30, £3.90. DF: £5.80. Trio: £24.00. CSF: £13.24

3.25 (7f 214yd) 1, Thatched (P Fessey, 10-1), 2, Quilling (16-1); 3, Smarter Charter (7-2 fav). 12 ran. 1¼l, 1½l. R Barr. Tote: £16.20; £4.50, £6.90, £1.90. DF: £73.30. Trio: £240.70 (part won. Pool of £176.36 carried forward to 3.35 at Leicester today). CSF: £156.93. Tricast: £633.32

4.00 (1m 4f) 1, Polyphony (D Harrison, 7-2), 2, Rare Talent (5-1); 3, Indigo Dawn (15-8 fav). 7 ran. 1¾l, 6l. R Charlton. Tote: £2.80; £2.30, £1.30. DF: £10.40. CSF: £18.73

4.30 (1m 4f) 1, Little Acorn (J Carroll, 11-4), 2, Night Mirage (9-4 fav); 3, Ansarg (16-1). 8 ran. 5l, 1½l. S Williams. Tote: £3.60; £1.50, £1.10, £3.10. DF: £5.00. CSF: £9.20. Tricast: £77.55.

5.05 (5f 207yd) 1, Grey Kingdom (D Mernagh, 11-4 jt-fav. Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Amron (9-1); 3, Winter Scout (16-1); 4, Kid Ory (20-1). Sihafi 11-4 jt-fav. 19 ran. 4l, nk. M Brittain. Tote: £3.80; £2.20, £2.20, £3.80, £5.20. DF: £24.80. Trio: £357.10. CSF: £30.59. Tricast: £378.43

Placepot: £15.70. Quadpot: £15.90.

Ascot

Going: good to firm, good in places

5.30 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Garrylough (Mr C Bonner, 6-1); 2, Drumcullen (10-1); 3, Hamstown Lady (20-1). Merlins Dream 11-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Nevada Gold. 2l, 5l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £6.50; £1.70, £2.30, £5.40. DF: £24.60. Trio: £105.30. CSF: £53.38. Tricast: £953.57.

6.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Monnaie Forte (L Aspell, 8-1), 2, Darakshan (4-1); 3, Markus (12-1). Serious 5-2 fav. 9 ran. 1¾l, hd. J Adam. Tote: £8.40; £2.10, £2.10, £2.50. DF: £29.80. Trio: £58.20. CSF: £37.06. Tricast: £351.07.

Ludlow

Going: good to firm

5.45 (2m hdle) 1, Theme Arena (D Walsh, 8-15 fav); 2, Daydream Believer (20-1), 3, Witheway (7-1). 11 ran. 6l, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.40; £1.20, £4.30, £1.70. DF: £13.70. Trio: £25.50. CSF: £15.57

6.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, Quite A Man (C Maude, 4-6 fav); 2, Herbert Buchanan (6-4), 3, Houghton (9-1). 4 ran. 16l, 25l. S Brookshaw. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.12

Taunton

Going: firm, good to firm in places

5.35 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Ath Cheannaithe (Mr J Jukes, 4-6 fav), 2, Gi Moss (7-1), 3, Irish Dominion (14-1). 5 ran. NR: Imperial Honors. 11l, 13l. J Neville. Tote: £1.40; £1.30, £2.80. DF: £3.40. CSF: £5.08

6.05 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Fleet Cadet (G Supple, 3-1 fav); 2, Just For A Reason (6-1), 3, Against The Clock (7-2). 9 ran. 7l, ¼l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.10; £1.50, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £10.80. Trio: £8.20. CSF: £20.08. Tricast: £58.74

SPECIALISTS

MARKET RASEN: Trainers: C Mann, 5 winners from 11 runners, 45.5%. M Wilkinson, 4 from 14, 28.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 24 from 97, 24.7%. P Beaumont, 13 from 57, 22.8%. D Nicholson, 5 from 22, 22.7%; R Dickin, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

Jockeys: Mr S Swiers, 3 winners from 5 rides, 60.0%. J Culloty, 6 from 21, 28.6%. Mr C Bonner, 3 from 11, 27.3%. L Wyer, 19 from 110, 17.3%; F Leahy, 8 from 49, 16.3%; A S Smith, 19 from 139, 13.7%.

RUGBY UNION: DALLAGLIO SEEKS REWARD FOR WHITE AND GREENWOOD WITH LEAGUE TITLE UP FOR GRABS AT FRANKLIN'S GARDENS

Wasps acknowledge debt to unsung pack heroes

McGeechan: wary of Rees

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

IF WASPS clinch their second Courage Clubs Championship title this afternoon, it is not just the obvious candidates who will merit the applause. Equally deserving are the unsung senior servants, Mike White and Matt Greenwood. Amateur or professional, no club functions without such players, whose qualities are appreciated most by those who play alongside them.

Both had something to do with Wasps' previous triumph, in 1990: White, now 30, played in the back row of the side that beat Saracens on the same April day that Greenwood, 32, then a No 8, helped Nottingham to beat Gloucester, and so allowed Wasps to come up on the rail.

"It will be nice when guys like Buster [White] and Matt get the reward they deserve," Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, said this week.

It is Northampton who stand in the way of Wasps' first bite at the league title cherry: they require no more than a draw — either from the game at Franklin's Gardens today or, next Saturday, against Harlequins at The Stoop — to bring the silverware to Sudbury, or Loftus Road (where they will play all their matches next season) or wherever their trophy cabinet now dwells. Moreover, Dallaglio takes a sardonic pleasure in noting that he is the only Lion-in-waiting at Wasps, while Northampton boast five.

"White is a very underestimated player and he's part of an excellent back-row unit," Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said. So underestimated that not once has he played in the England A team; Greenwood at least enjoyed 13 appearances, mostly on tour in New Zealand and Canada, with the national second string before moving from the Midlands to London and from the back row to the second row.

It is players such as these who have earned the respect of the young Turks at Wasps, who underpin the flashier exploits of the Greenstocks and Logans and have helped Chris Sheasby to national recognition this season. But they, in turn, will acknowledge the contribution of another old Wasp, Gareth Rees, this season. Rees played in the 1986 cup final as a teenager before continuing his peripatetic career in Canada, France and Wales, before the wheel turned full circle.

"Rees has been very important to Wasps, keeping the momentum going when perhaps there has not been great momentum in their rugby," McGeechan said with feeling, since he may recall the six penalty goals kicked by the Canadian which beat Northampton 18-13 at Loftus Road just after Christmas. But Rees also offers the experience from full back which points others in the right direction at critical moments.

Andy Gomarsall returns at scrum half for Wasps against Matt Dawson, who leads Northampton in the continued absence, with a neck injury, of Tim Rodber. But Paul Grayson, the England stand-off half, continues to rest the hip injury that has kept him out of action for seven weeks: McGeechan, who reckons he has only seven fit backs to throw into the fray (though four of them have been, or will be, British Lions), plays Alistair Hepher at No 10 and hopes to restore Grayson in one of the club's two games next week.

Harlequins are the only team to have won at Franklin's Gardens in the league this season. This afternoon, they entertain second-placed Leicester, who restore Joel Stransky at stand-off and give young Lewis Moody a run at blind-side flanker.

Harlequins include Dominic Chapman on one wing and Daren O'Leary, who will now travel to Argentina with England next month, on the other, but the national selectors will continue to review their back-up strength in the belief that the Lions will make demands on them and that John Fowler, of Sale, is a possible withdrawal.

Fowler, who has damaged cruciate and medial ligaments, will miss the Pilkington Cup final on May 10 and has little prospect of being fit in time to tour, hence an England presence at Coventry's match with Bedford today, where the form of Dan Grewcock in the second row will be monitored. But Fowler is only one of eight Sale players struggling with injuries and a squad of 30 travels to Bath with selection postponed until this morning.

West Hartlepool, doomed to relegation, have appointed Mike Brewer as their director of rugby after the dismissal of Mark Ring earlier this week. Brewer, the former Canterbury and New Zealand back row forward, has been assisting Brian Ashton with Ireland this season and will take up his new position in time for the next campaign.

Stransky: back for Leicester

Jarvis can prepare foundations for future prosperity

By Gerald Davies

AMONG the ruins of Cardiff Arms Park, as the old ground makes way for the new, Cardiff and Swansea will play out what is positively the last rugby match at the old stadium this afternoon. But, before the season fades, and the place turns to rubble, a little quibble should have an airing.

With the turf and all the other nicknacks going under the auctioneer's hammer this weekend, one would hope that the powers that be might care to hang on to the talismanic name and not adopt something so blandly unexpressive, anonymous, and, in these days of commercial imperatives, totally unbrandable appellation as the Millennium Stadium.

Although I suffer my share of it, this is not simply sentiment. Who, in the 1999 World Cup, will want to buy a T-shirt with the utterly unemblematic "Millennium Stadium" stamped on it? Wembley, too, will soon change, but the name, quite rightly, will not. It reverberates throughout the sporting world, as does Cardiff's temple to rugby. An inspiration to poetry not a bureaucrat's prose.

At any rate, it would be marvellous to think that Lee Jarvis, 20, at stand-off half for Cardiff today, may get to pursue his ambitions and, when the day comes, to display his precocious gifts in the Wales jersey at no place other than the Arms Park. In this, the 26th year of the cup competition, the young player is likely to play a vital role.

In a season when, for the most part, he has had to play second fiddle to Jonathan Davies, and has consequently been unable to appear in the first-team colours every weekend, Jarvis has managed to accumulate 144 league points. Some 129 of these have come from his right boot. He has played, in one position or another, in all four of the cup rounds and scored 64 points.

He has been in top form of late. While Robert Howley stole the headlines with three tries, Jarvis collected 16 of Cardiff's 36 points in their semi-final against Llanelli. It seemed hardly to matter to him that the six successful chances he had at goal were from various distances and angles. It was self-assured kicking of the highest order.

Swansea will be looking for much the same from Aled Williams, who has been chosen ahead of Arwel Thomas at stand-off half. Thomas, who resumed playing only last weekend after a two-month absence with a knee-ligament injury, is not fully recovered. That he played when his team lost to Newbridge, who are at the bottom of the first division, cannot have helped his case for inclusion.

Williams, unlike Jarvis, is a mature and canny campaigner who, while he can be a match-winner, can allow his concentration to lapse now and again. With Andy Booth as his partner, and Robert Howley inside Jarvis, both sets of half backs will provide a fascinating contest. More fierce will be what happens in front of them.

This season's evidence suggests that both groups of back-row forwards are largely confrontational. However, the inclusion of Gwyn Jones, a true open-side flanker, in the Cardiff line-up hints strongly of something different. He is a support player who enjoys the movement in midfield. With Gibbs and Taylor, for Swansea, against Hall and Leigh Davies, this could well prove a congested place.

Swansea have won the cup twice but have been beaten finalists five times. Cardiff have won it six times and failed on the three other occasions that they have reached the final. This suggests that Cardiff are more in tune with the final-day pressure than their opponents.

On the eight occasions that the clubs have met since the competition began, Cardiff have succeeded six times, but the match is closer to call than these statistics would might suggest.

Three of Swansea's final appearances have come in the past six years, a spell during which they have also won the first division championship twice. All has been achieved under the coaching stewardship of Mike Ruddock.

However, after six years ploughing his furrow in Swansea, Ruddock is now looking for fresher fields to enhance his rugby coaching credentials. In June, he will be returning to that corner of Dublin whence he emerged in 1991, retracing his steps to Donnybrook, where he once looked after Bective Rangers. There, adjacent to the club facilities, he will set out his stall for Leinster as one of the four provincial coaches employed by the Irish RFU.

"It was time to move," Ruddock said. "There were several reasons which prompted me. After six years, I felt it was time to look for another challenge.

"There are some very good players coming through in Swansea. There is a brand new team coming together, a start of a new journey for someone."

TEAMS

CARDIFF: J Thomas, S Hill, L Davies, M Hall, N Walker; L Jarvis, R Howley; A Lewis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, H Taylor, K Stewart, D Jones, G Jones, O Williams

SWANSEA: M Back, A Harris, M Taylor, S Gibbs, S Davies; A Williams, A Booth; I Buckett, G Jenkins, S Evans, A Reynolds, S Moore, P Arnold, R Appleyard, S Davies

Referee: D Davies (Llanbradach)

Bunting appointed to refereeing position

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) has appointed Nick Bunting as its national referee development officer, in succession to Steve Griffiths, who is now working for the International Rugby Football Board (David Hands writes).

Bunting, 35 and a former B-grade referee with the East Midlands Society, has proved an imaginative training officer, whose team will be increased when divisional appointments are made for the North and the South West. Colin High, the former international referee, is to manage the development of elite referees for the RFU.

In the Super 12 match in Christchurch yesterday, Canterbury Crusaders inflicted further misery on a depleted Gauteng Lions team. Gauteng, who lost heavily to Auckland Blues last week, were beaten 23-0 by a Canterbury side that had previously only won twice in the tournament.

Canterbury were indebted to Andrew Mehrtens, the New Zealand stand-off half, whose kicking and defensive work on a soggy Lancaster Park pitch were the most notable features of a frustrating game.

☐ Hugh McLean, the New Zealand international who cofounded the New Zealand Barbarians, died on Thursday at the age of 89.

The combined efforts of Furner, left, and Thorn force Young, of New Zealand, to lose possession during Australia's 34-22 victory in Sydney

New Zealand pay price for slow start

Australia	34
New Zealand	22

By Christopher Irvine

IN THEIR first outing under rugby league's Super League banner, a youthful Australia established their supremacy over a more experienced New Zealand team with a surprisingly comfortable win in this specially-arranged Anzac Day international, before a disappointing crowd of 23,829 at the Sydney Football Stadium yesterday.

New Zealand, who whitewashed Great Britain 3-0 in the home series last year, responded strongly after a humiliating first half. In an encouraging international debut, Robbie Paul, the Bradford Bulls captain, came off the bench and contributed one of four second-half tries, but a 20-0 deficit at the break was too great a margin for them to make up.

Australia, with 11 players making first international appearances, dominated the first quarter without scoring. Exploiting New Zealand's poor defence and the hesitancy at stand-off half of Gene Njamu, David Furner, the second-row forward, and Wendell Sailor, on the left wing, each scored two tries in a devastating 12-minute spell.

Furner burst 35 metres to open Australia's account and crossed again three minutes later. While the Kiwis were trying to recover from that double blow, Sailor scored after good work by Matt Adamson, a replacement for ward, and again ripped through flimsy New Zealand tackling five minutes later.

The Kiwis fought back spiritedly with early second-half tries by Stacey Jones and Daryl Halligan, before Australia surged ahead once more. Allan Langer opened up a gap for Darren Smith and then Craig Gower crossed to make it 34-12. Tries at the end by Paul and Sean Hoppe spared New Zealand greater embarrassment.

Frank Endacott, the New Zealand coach, blamed his team's first-half performance for ultimate defeat. "The Australians had a very low error rate and ours was far too high, particularly in the first half," Endacott said.

New Zealand gained some compensation for defeat by winning the under-19 international 17-16.

SCORERS: Australia: Tries: Furner (2), Sailor (2), Smith, Gower. Goals: Girdler (5). New Zealand: Tries: Jones, Halligan, Paul, Hoppe. Goals: Halligan (3).

AUSTRALIA: D Peachey; K Nagas, A Ettingshausen, R Girdler, W Sailor; L Daley (captain), A Langer; G Lazarus, C Gower, R Howe, D Furner, B Thorn, D Smith. Substitutes: P Green, J O'Neill, M Adamson, S Haumono

NEW ZEALAND: R Barnett; S Hoppe, R Wiki, J Timu, D Halligan; G Ngamu, S Jones; G Young, S Eru, Q Pongia, A Iro, S Kearney (captain), T Nikau. Substitutes: J Vagana, T Smith, T Ropati, R Paul.

Referee: S Cummings (England)

☐ David Topliss, the former Great Britain captain and Wakefield Trinity coach, has criticised the increasing number of Australians now playing and coaching in England. Topliss, who lost out this week in the vacancy at Featherstone Rovers to Steve Simms, an Australian, said: "There are too many Australians in England and they are not good for the game.

"In the Eighties, we saw the likes of Wally Louis and Mal Meninga. Over the last couple of years there has been an increasing number of Australians who are simply not good enough. I am not bitter about the Featherstone job but it is my opinion that the Australian players and managers here are nothing special."

Paul returns to home front

By Christopher Irvine

TWO days after making his debut for New Zealand in Sydney, Robbie Paul hopes to be back in harness for Bradford Bulls at home to Sheffield Eagles in the Stones Super League tomorrow night.

Although the Bulls narrowly maintained their unbeaten league record against Halifax Blue Sox in midweek, they badly missed Paul's creativity. His two late tries rescued them against Paris Saint-Germain in France a week ago, when the Bulls were far from convincing. Importantly, they are winning while playing well below par.

If Paul is up to participating, the Bradford side will closely resemble the line-up for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley next Saturday. Sonny Nickle is still carrying an arm injury, and hopes to prove his fitness. Stuart Spruce and Paul Medley return, as does Brian McDermott to the pack, after a four-match suspension.

St Helens's last outing before Wembley is at Anfield where they will be seeking to avoid further injuries and inflict a ninth consecutive defeat on the bottom club, Castleford Tigers.

The confrontation between the in-form teams, London Broncos and Leeds Rhinos, will determine which of them is best equipped to take up the pursuit of Bradford and St Helens. London have opted for experience in recalling Tony Mestrov, Rob Beazley and Steve Rosolen and an unchanged Leeds side means an intriguing contest at half back between Iestyn Harris and Shaun Edwards.

Oldham Bears, without a coach after Andy Goodway's dismissal, will look to profit from the injury problems Halifax sustained at Bradford. For their home game against Paris, Warrington Wolves have brought in Chris Rudd, Salesi Finau and John Hough, who was put on the transfer list last month.

SWIMMING: TWO-YEAR SUSPENSIONS FOR ANABOLIC STEROID OFFENDERS

China bans four more after drug tests

By Craig Lord

CHINA has reported another four positive drug tests among its swimmers, taking to 23 the number of Chinese to have been suspended from the sport this decade. The circumstances of the tests mean, however, that China as a nation will not be suspended for two years, as might have happened.

Nor will the guilty four, three of whom failed anabolic steroid tests and one of whom had an illegally high testosterone/epitestosterone (T/E) ratio, serve four-year suspensions because the infringements were committed shortly before the four-year rule came into force last year.

One man and three women, all ranked outside the top 30 in the world and therefore not national team members, have been suspended for two years after testing positive at the national championships in January 1996, according to a report from the Chinese swimming federation sent to Fina, the international governing body, in February this year. Three coaches have also been suspended for two years.

The delay was said to be "normal", given the procedure of testing and subsequent appeals. Cornel Marculescu, the Fina director, said: "Nations are now obliged to report positive tests. China has done that. They are fighting against drugs there and are taking action themselves. Six months to a year is a normal reporting period given the decision, the analysis and the procedure of appeal."

The T/E ratio infringement was committed by the male swimmer, Lu Qiang, while the women, Yu Ran, Pu Shi and Chen Jialin, were suspended for having taken an anabolic steroid.

The news follows China's return to form at the world short-course championships in Gothenburg last week after a poor show at the Olympic Games last year. At the 1994 Asian Games, seven Chinese swimmers tested positive for anabolic steroids a month after the world championships in Rome. Two world champions, Yang Aihua and Lu Bin, were among those suspended for two years.

According to rules agreed at the Fina congress at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, a whole nation will be suspended from all international competition for two years if four of its swimmers test positive for anabolic steroids within a 12-month period.

However, a loophole, designed to provide national federations with an incentive to test swimmers and report violations, states that the nation will not be suspended if it reports positive tests of its own accord. The whole-nation ban applies only if Fina drug-testers catch the culprits, but not if they are detected by their own federation.

SAILING: TURNER PAINTS ATTRACTIVE PICTURE OF SINGLE-HANDED VENTURE

Britons to ride on crest of new wave

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

MARK TURNER has done his fair share of top-level ocean racing. There was a Whitbread Round the World Race at the age of 22, five round Britain races, a two-handed transatlantic race and a round Europe race. So far, though, he has never tasted the challenge — or the loneliness — of long-distance single-handed racing.

In September he will fill that gap in his CV when he sets off from Brest on the Mini Transat — a single-handed race across the Atlantic that will finish in Martinique 4,200 miles later.

Turner, 29, will be joined on the startline by Ellen MacArthur, a fellow Briton, who made a name for herself in 1995 when she was made BT young sailor of the year after becoming the youngest person to sail single-handedly round Great Britain at the age of 17. Their emergence is a welcome sign that single-handed ocean racing could be back on the increase in this country, buoyed by the heroics of Pete Goss and Tony Bullimore in the Vendée Globe race.

Turner bought his "Mini" class yacht last year and has been preparing it in Hamble. "Right now there is huge interest in single-handed racing," he said. "Even among the rock stars of sailing in Hamble, there is great interest in what I am doing which has really amazed me."

Turner will be up against a predominantly French fleet, led by full-time professionals such as Bernard Stamm, the France-based Swiss, and Thierry Fagnant. "There are two or three guys who have the best boats, the best budgets and are very good yachtsmen. If I can get in the top five, I'll be absolutely ecstatic," Turner said yesterday.

The race, which originated in Britain in 1977 but has long-since been taken over by the French, is sailed in powerful monohulls of just 6.5 metres in length. In many respects, they are like pocket Open 60s — the Vendée class — combining unrestricted and innovative sail plans with swing keels, twin rudders, dagger boards and water ballast. There are no engines and communications are restricted to VHF radio. Sailing a "Mini" is all about speed — 14 to 16 knots of it downwind — endurance and discomfort.

Turner and MacArthur have found sponsorship hard to come by. MacArthur has borrowed money from her parents to buy a second-hand boat, while Turner is hoping to secure a deal with the Isle of Wight to use his campaign to promote the island.

Turner launches his boat in three weeks, after which he will begin his preparation on the water, which will include the Mini Fastnet and the Trans-Gascoigne races.

FOOTBALL

Rudge leads Vale closer to unlikely port of call

By Russell Kempson

IT MIGHT sound ridiculous — Port Vale, members of the *FA Carling Premiership* — but fantasy could edge closer to reality tomorrow when they play Wolverhampton Wanderers at Vale Park. Victory *for Vale would* keep alive their hopes of a Nationwide League first division play-off place and also finally erase Wolves' chances of automatic promotion into the promised land of *the Premiership.*

Little wonder John Rudge, Vale's genial and long-serving manager, is billing it as the biggest game in the club's *history. Though he* rarely indulges in pre-match hype, even he is excited about the possibilities.

"I doubt if we have ever had a more important fixture," he said. "We *know we have to* take all three points and we'll have to go for it from the off. There will be no holding back. It's bound to be a tremendous occasion and, hopefully, it will also be one that we can savour."

Rudge: respect

With several of the other *Premiership* contenders jostling for position last night, Rudge should go into the game knowing the points total required if they are to finish above their play-off rivals.

Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton manager, is not usually generous with his praise, but paid tribute to the job Rudge has done in his 13 years at the Potteries club, mostly *with only limited funds* at his disposal.

"I've got tremendous respect for John and what he's achieved," McGhee said. "*He's often had to sell his best players and make* a profit on them, but he's still done brilliantly.

"On the first day of the season, if you'd said Vale would be *where there are now,* I'd have been surprised, but they've kept getting results all season when people haven't *expected them* to. They've done really well."

Vale, who won 1-0 at Molineux in October, could again meet Wolves in the play-*offs. "That's entirely possible,"* McGhee said, "and that's why we'd rather not lose this time. We don't want to give them any sort of confidence booster *ahead* of another possible meeting."

Jon McCarthy, the Vale winger, has been given special permission by Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland *manager, to play tomorrow.* He will then fly out to Yerevan, where Ireland are playing Armenia in a World Cup qualifying match on Wednes*day.*

Among the *numerous* promotion and relegation issues at stake, Brighton are likely to attract the most attention, especially if they fail to beat Doncaster Rovers *at home* in the third division. *It is* the final match at the Goldstone Ground and could prove Brighton's last game in the league for some time.

"*If they* lose and *Hereford* United take a point from their trip to Leyton Orient, Brighton will drop into the Vauxhall Conference. It would also nul*lify* the importance of the clubs' closing fixture of the season on May 4 — against each other.

History and form point to a Brighton win, which would take *the issue on* to Edgar *Street next weekend. Brighton* are unbeaten in 12 matches at the Goldstone since Steve Gritt took over as manager, winning eight of their last nine. Doncaster have not won *in seven visits to the south* coast club, scoring only one goal.

"There is no room for complacency," Gritt said. "A lot of people are looking at our home form and thinking we should win it, but you often get kicked in the teeth in those circumstances. The players are really ready for it and we *will go out with the same* attitude we have taken into every game."

Dick Knight, who became Brighton's new chairman this week, predicted an emotional day. "*It is a new era for the* club," he said. "It is the last game at the Goldstone, historic for that reason alone, but it is equally vital in our fight to stay in the league. *I'm sure the team can rise to the occasion.*"

MICHAEL COOPER / ALLSPORT

Wilson's intense passion and strong leadership have taken unfashionable Barnsley to the brink of promotion

Wilson inspires dour Barnsley to become leading northern lights

DANNY WILSON

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By David Maddock

The *football aristocracy may shudder at* the very thought, but Barnsley have all *but kicked open the gates of the Premiership Bastille, and* will soon enjoy their own slice of its lucrative cake. Victory this afternoon against Bradford City will ensure, for *the first time in their 110-year history, promotion to the top* division.

The mere mention of Barnsley evokes sepia images of cobbled streets and Skinner Normanton, a *postwar anti-hero. It does so* because the club has suffered the terrible fate of being less well known than one of its supporters, Michael Parkinson. *His stories of Skinner are more widely known than the* deeds of the club itself.

Barnsley is a solemn town, a town robbed of the pit shafts from where Normanton *was hollered up* and a town that has suffered the worst of the Thatcher years. When they enter the FA Carling Premiership, though, as they surely will, it will be *because of dynamism and* forward thinking, not a strange historical blip.

It is here that Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, *must stand up and take a bow. A few months* ago he was barely a household name in his own house. Now he is recognised as one of the new breed of *articulate* young *managers who have breathed* some refreshing life into the game with their passion.

It is hard not to see this energy, this single-mindedness as the *driving* force *behind Barnsley's rise.* Speak to him in his little office within the bowels of the modern, 20,000 capacity Oakwell stadium, and he communicates *further this leadership ideal.*

"At a club like Barnsley, you have to take the fear away," he said. "If you can remove that barrier, that *fear of the next unknown step,* then you can develop — you emerge with a truer picture of what is required. And that has to come from the people *at the top. I don't have that* fear of failure. I don't fear being sacked and I have to instil that into my players".

Wilson was born in Wigan of an English father, but his mother *is* from Derry. *His dad, Jim "Tug" Wilson, went* to Ireland with the Royal Navy and stayed to marry before they eventually settled back in England. That is how young Wilson *became the* first player to represent Northern Ireland under the parents qualification.

It is also why he has been grouped with Martin O'Neill, *Jimmy Nicholl and, further* down the scale, Sammy McIlroy, as Irish managers who could, one day, rival the Scots who dominate the managerial scene in England. *There are certainly strong* similarities between Wilson and O'Neill.

Both have an intense emotional *involvement* in the game, *but are articulate and expressive with it.* Such qualities are seen in the likes of Alex Ferguson, George Graham and, before them, Brian Clough. That is no coinci*dence because Wilson and* O'Neill cite Clough as their main managerial influence.

Wilson went to Nottingham Forest as a wide-eyed 22-year-old just after the *European Cup triumphs and,* even though he believes it is the one club where he did not improve himself as a player, he did learn a great deal for *future reference.*

"I was in awe of them," he said. "I thought I should be running about all over the place. Mr Clough just said, 'Hey you, thick bastard, stand *still'. John Robertson was magnificent* at standing still. He just carried space and I find myself saying that to my players now."

It seems to be working. Barnsley are going *up* because they play decent, attractive football. They deserve to go up — but can they stay there? Conventional wisdom suggests *that they will come straight back down, but* Wilson is not so sure.

He said: "I am impressed by the *durability of* Leicester and Derby. I think it may just be possible to survive. It is realistic to say that we could stay there and even prosper *eventually. We don't* have anyone bankrolling us, but Wimbledon didn't have any money when they went up and they have prospered, so that has to be our aim. *But we have just got to survive the* first season".

The survival plan has reasonable foundations. Wilson and John Dennis, the Barnsley chairman, *have been planning for promotion since* the turn of the year and they have, they say, the finances in place. Oakwell may be surrounded by cobbled streets, *but there is vision — and that* gives them a chance.

Anxiety begins to gnaw at bottom six teams

By Russell Kempson

BLACKBURN Rovers reached a milestone on Tuesday night — not one that will be engraved in the Ewood Park *record* books or recalled with great affection in years to come, but a significant mark nonetheless. With a 4-1 victory against Sheffield Wednesday, they *reached* 41 *points for the* season. It is enough, surely, for them to avoid relegation.

For the rest, the pain and *anguish* continue. It might provide a perverse, almost sadistic, spectacle for the neutral observer, but it is all too real for those embroiled in the *grip of relegation. Loss* of FA Carling Premiership status is but a hair's breadth away.

Six clubs are probably involved in the conundrum, *with only five points separating* fifteenth and twentieth places. It is a case of perm any three from six — or at least it was until Wednesday night, *when* Nottingham Forest could manage only a 0-0 draw away to Derby County.

Forest have fallen from grace. Big time. A tortuous *boardroom takeover, lack of* financial muscle and the gradual loss of confidence have proved a fatal combination. They appear gone.

Middlesbrough are not looking too healthy, either. Successive 1-0 defeats against Sunderland and Tottenham Hotspur have made their games in hand look worthless.

FA Cup finalists and Coca-Cola Cup runners-up they may be, but an unlikely and unwanted treble is looming. A concluding programme of away games, against Manchester United, Blackburn and Leeds United, does little to instil confidence.

For Sunderland, on 37 points, the escape tunnel is *collapsing.* Closing fixtures *against* Everton and Wimbledon are hardly encouraging and Peter Reid, the manager, is looking more mournful by the minute.

Southampton, Coventry City or West Ham United, locked together on 38 points, could yet spare Sunderland's grief. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, remains *cautious,* even after a *scrambled* 1-0 win against Leicester City on Wednesday. "If someone offered me 40 points now, I wouldn't take it," he said. "I don't think it will be enough."

Coventry always *seem* to hang on, somehow, with Gordon Strachan probably deserving another season in the Premiership as reward for his *jovial candour since* succeeding Ron Atkinson. Southampton, buoyed by an unbeaten run of six games, could stay up by beating Blackburn at The *Dell* on May 3. Blackburn, to *huge outpourings of relief at* Ewood Park on Tuesday, are out of it.

Ginola gets signal to end his stay on Tyneside

DAVID GINOLA'S two-year flirtation with English football is *all but* over after directors of Newcastle United agreed yesterday to a transfer request submitted by the French winger. *A regular in* the thrilling Newcastle *team* built by Kevin Keegan, Ginola, signed from Paris Saint-Germain in the summer *of 1995, has enjoyed a less* successful relationship with Keegan's successor at St James' Park, Kenny Dalglish, and has failed to hold down a *permanent first-team place.*

"The board have discussed the transfer request and accepted it," a Newcastle *spokesman said yesterday,* signalling a move back to the Continent, perhaps to Marseilles, Barcelona, or, most likely, Atlético Madrid.

Martin Edwards, *the* Manchester United chief executive, yesterday dismissed speculation about the future of Eric Cantona. United's *failure to reach the final of the* European Cup prompted a stream of reports that the Frenchman may be allowed to leave Old Trafford, but *Edwards* said: "No *discussions* have taken place [with Eric] because these matters are always reviewed in the close season. Eric Cantona is under contract *to us* for *another year and there is no* issue, no justification for this kind of speculation."

Earlier this week, Alex Ferguson, the manager, said: "*Eric bears a great responsibility* in being captain. There's not a great deal of experience throughout the team, so it puts even more *responsibility on him. He's a* football man and the young players look up to him. He gets on well with all of them and they listen to him. He loves training, and he fits in *easily to everything* we *want* from a Manchester United captain."

Billy McKinlay, the Blackburn Rovers midfield player, is out of the Scotland squad *for the World Cup qualifying* tie against Sweden in Gothenburg next week. McKinlay has a knee injury.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, will know today *whether or not Duncan* Ferguson, the Everton forward, will be fit enough to join the squad. John Spencer, the Queens Park Rangers forward, is standing by to *join* the party.

Millwall, the Nationwide League second division club, which has been in receivership, yesterday unveiled a £10 *million rescue package led by* Theo Paphitis, a Greek-Cypriot businessman. Millwall hope a placing of shares and a rights issue will raise the £10 million, providing *£7.25 million to discharge debts and* £2.75 million of working capital.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

Nationwide League
First division

(1) Barnsley v Bradford
(-) Birmingham v Oxford Utd
(-) Queens Park Rangers v Tranmere
(2) Reading v Oldham
(3) Southend v Huddersfield
(-) Swindon v Crystal Palace
(4) West Bromwich v Grimsby

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Bolton	44	27	13	4	94	50	94
Barnsley	44	21	14	9	73	50	77
Wolves	44	21	10	13	68	49	73
* Ipswich	44	19	13	12	66	49	70
* Sheff Utd.	44	19	12	13	74	52	69
C Palace	44	18	13	13	75	47	67
Port Vale	44	17	15	12	58	52	66
* Portsmouth	44	19	8	17	58	52	65
Tranmere	44	17	13	14	61	52	64
QPR	44	17	12	15	62	57	63
* Norwich	44	17	11	16	63	65	62
Birmingham	44	16	14	14	49	47	62
* Stoke	44	17	10	17	49	55	61
* Charlton	43	16	10	17	51	61	58
* Man City	44	16	9	19	56	58	57
West Brom	44	13	15	16	65	70	54
Oxford Utd	44	15	9	20	59	65	54
Reading	44	14	12	18	54	64	54
Swindon	44	15	8	21	52	69	53
Huddersfield	44	12	14	18	46	60	50
Grimsby	44	10	13	21	56	79	43
Bradford	43	10	12	21	43	70	42
Oldham	44	9	13	22	48	64	40
Southend	44	8	15	21	41	80	39

** not including last night's matches*

Second division

(5) Blackpool v Bristol Rovers
(6) Bournemouth v Wrexham
(7) Bristol City v Plymouth
(8) Crewe v Chesterfield
(9) Millwall v Gillingham
(10) Notts County v Burnley
(11) Peterborough v Luton
(12) Rotherham v York
(13) Shrewsbury v Preston
(14) Stockport v Wycombe
(15) Walsall v Brentford
(16) Watford v Bury

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	44	23	11	10	60	38	80
Stockport	43	21	12	10	55	39	75
Luton	44	20	14	10	69	44	74
Brentford	44	20	14	10	56	41	74
Crewe	44	22	6	16	54	44	72
Bristol City	43	19	10	14	64	48	67
Blackpool	44	17	15	12	56	43	66
Wrexham	44	16	18	10	51	47	66
Watford	44	16	18	10	44	34	66
Burnley	44	18	10	16	68	53	64
Walsall	43	18	10	15	53	49	64
Chesterfield	42	16	14	12	39	35	62
Millwall	44	16	13	15	50	51	61
Gillingham	43	16	10	17	54	59	58
Bristol Rov	44	15	11	18	44	45	56
Bournemouth	44	14	14	16	41	44	56
Preston	44	16	7	21	45	55	55
Plymouth	44	12	17	15	46	55	53
Wycombe	44	14	10	20	48	54	52
York	44	12	12	20	44	67	48
Shrewsbury	44	11	13	20	49	70	46
Peterborough	44	10	14	20	54	72	44
Notts County	44	7	13	24	32	57	34
Rotherham	44	6	14	24	37	67	32

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Everton v Blackburn (2.0): Manchester United v Leeds (2.0).

Third division

(17) Brighton v Doncaster
(18) Cardiff v Carlisle
(19) Colchester v Northampton
(20) Exeter v Chester
(21) *Fulham v Hull*
(22) Hartlepool v Barnet
(23) Leyton Orient v Hereford
(24) Mansfield v Darlington
(25) Rochdale v Cambridge Utd
(26) Scarborough v Lincoln
(27) Scunthorpe v Swansea
(28) * Torquay v Wigan (12.15)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	44	24	9	11	79	51	81
Fulham	44	23	12	9	69	38	81
Carlisle	43	22	12	9	62	40	78
Swansea	44	21	7	16	60	55	70
Northampton	44	19	11	14	66	44	68
Chester	44	17	16	11	50	41	67
Cardiff	44	19	9	16	53	52	66
Camb Utd	44	18	11	15	53	56	65
Colchester	44	16	16	12	58	49	64
Lincoln	44	17	12	15	68	67	63
Mansfield	44	15	16	13	45	42	61
Scarborough	44	15	15	14	63	66	60
Scunthorpe	44	17	9	18	58	61	60
Barnet	44	14	16	14	44	43	58
Hull	44	13	18	13	44	46	57
Rochdale	43	12	16	15	51	55	52
L Orient	44	13	12	19	47	57	51
Torquay	44	13	11	20	45	57	50
Darlington	44	13	10	21	61	75	49
Doncaster	44	13	10	21	50	64	49
Exeter	44	12	12	20	47	66	48
Hartlepool	44	13	8	23	47	64	47
Hereford	44	11	13	20	48	62	46
† Brighton	44	12	9	23	51	69	43

† Brighton deducted two points

Vauxhall Conference

(29) Altrincham v Kettering
(30) Farnborough v Hednesford
(31) Hayes v Bath
(32) Kidderminster v Southport
(33) Macclesfield v Bromsgrove
(34) Morecambe v Slough
(35) Northwich v Woking
(36) Rushden & Diamonds v Halifax
(—) Stevenage v Stalybridge
(—) *Telford v Dover*
(—) Welling v Gateshead

Bell's Scottish League
First division

(37) Airdrie v Stirling
(38) Clydebank v Greenock Morton
(39) Dundee v Partick
(—) Falkirk v St Johnstone
(—) *St Mirren* v East Fife

Second division

(40) Berwick v Clyde
(41) Brechin v Stenhousemuir
(42) Hamilton v Ayr
(at Fir Park, Motherwell)
(43) Queen of South v Livingston
(44) Stranraer v Dumbarton

Third division

(45) Alloa v Montrose
(46) Cowdenbeath v Inverness CT
(47) East Stirling v Queen's Park
(48) Forfar v Albion
(49) Ross County v Arbroath

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: *First division:* Charlton v Arsenal
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: *Buckie Thistle* v Forres Mechanics, Clachnacuddin v Fort William: Fraserburgh v Wick Academy; *Keith* v Huntly, Lossiemouth v Nairn County

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v King's Lynn; Cambridge City v Chelmsford (12.0); Cheltenham v Newport AFC; Crawley v Atherstone; Gravesend and Northfleet v Merthyr; Gresley v Gloucester Hastings v Baldock; Nuneaton v Dor*chester; Salisbury v Halesowen; Sudbury* Tn v Burton Albion, Worcester City v Sittingbourne *Midland division:* Bedworth v Moor Green, Corby v Redditch Dudley Town v Hinckley Town, Grantham v Bilston; RC Warwick v Shepshed D. Raunds T v Paget R. Solihull Boro v Evesham, *Stafford* v Ilkeston, Stourbridge v VS Rugby: Sutton Coldfield Town v Rothwell *Southern division:* Bashley v Yate: Cinderford v St Leonards: Cirencester Town v Waterlooville, Erith and Belvedere v Witney: Fareham v Forest Green, Fleet T v Clevedon, Havant v Dartford Margate v Trowbridge, Weston-super-Mare v Buckingham Town; Wey*mouth v Fisher London*

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington *Stanley* v Frickley; Bamber Bridge v Guiseley; Blyth Spartans v Lancaster, Boston v Winsford: Colwyn Bay v Hyde: Emley v Alfreton, *Knowsley* v Gainsborough; Runcorn v Bishop Auckland; Spennymoor v Leek: Witton v Buxton First division: Ashton United v Whitley Bay. *Bradford Pk Ave v Atherton LR.* Congleton v Netherfield, Droylsden v Harrogate Town, *Eastwood Town* v Gretna, Flixton v Worksop, Lincoln United v Radcliffe. *Stocksbridge PS* v *Great Harwood:* Warrington v Farsley Celtic. Workington v Leigh

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Cemaes Bay (2.30), Barry v Conwy (2.30); Briton Ferry v Caernarfon: Caersws v Inter Cable-Tel; Cwmbran v Holywell, Porthmadog v Flint Town, Rhyl v Newtown Welshpool v Ton Pentre Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Llansantffraid v Bangor City (2.30)

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United v Tuffley, Banbury v *Shortwood. Bicester v Endsleigh: Brackley* v Kintbury, North Leigh v Almondsbury.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v *Hitchin, Chertsey* v *Harrow:* Dulwich v Staines, Enfield v Kingstonian, Hendon v Bromley, Heybridge v Yeovil, Oxford City v Dagenham and Redbridge; St Albans v Boreham Wood; Sutton United v Grays; Yeading v Aylesbury First division: Abingdon Town v Maidenhead United; *Aldershot Town* v Wokingham, Barton Rovers v Tooting and Mitcham; Billericay v *Thame; Bognor Regis v Croydon, Chesham* v Basingstoke: Hampton v Canvey Island, *Leyton Pennant v Berkhamsted, Uxbridge* v Molesey; Walton and Hersham v Marlow; *Whyteleafe v Worthing.* Second division: Cheshunt v Bedford T; Edgware v Dorking; Egham v Barking, H Hempstead v Wembley: Horsham v Collier Row and Romford; Hungerford v Wivenhoe. Leatherhead v Chalfont St Peter; Leighton Town v Metropolitan Police, Tilbury v Windsor and Eton; Ware v Banstead; Witham v Bracknell. Third division: Braintree v Hertford; Clapton v *Wealdstone, Epsom* and *Ewell* v East Thurrock, Harlow v Camberley; Kingsbury v *Aveley. Northwood* v *Flackwell Heath;* Southall v Wingate and Finchley.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Cup: Final: Concord Rangers v Ford

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Brimsdown v Haringey, Brook House v Berkingside, Cockfosters v Beaconsfield SYCOB; Hillingdon Boro v St Margaretsbury; Islington St Marys v Amersham, Woodford v Ruislip Manor

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES *LEAGUE: Bedfont v Ashford, Chipstead* v Raynes Park Vale, Cobham v Walton Casuals, Farnham v Ash: *Netherne* v Merstham, Sandhurst v Cranleigh, Viking Sports v Hartley Wintney; *Westfield* v Cove

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Toddington; Buckingham Athletic v Harpenden, London Colney v Arlesey; Milton Keynes v Hoddesdon.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier *division: Bideford v Brislington. Bridport v* Westbury; Chippenham v Odd Down.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEA*GUE: Premier division: Bury Town* v Woodbridge Town; Clacton v Gorleston, Diss v Soham; Great Yarmouth v Wroxham; Hadleigh U v Wisbech: Halstead v Newmarket, Stowmarket v Lowestoft; Sudbury v Fakenham, Tiptree v March: Warboys v Felixstowe P and T.

JEWSON *WESSEX LEAGUE: First di*vision: Lymington v Bournemouth. Totton v Portsmouth, Andover v Brockenhurst, BAT v Romsey: Bemerton Heath v Aerostructures. Christchurch v Wimborne Town; Eastleigh v Cowes Sports; Gosport v East Cowes. Ryde Sports v Whitchurch; Thatcham Town v Downton.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First *division: Arundel v Pagham, Langney* Sports v Wick: Mile Oak v Shoreham, *Oakwood* v *Hailsham; Saltdean* v Whitehawk, Selsey v Ringmer: Three Bridges v Horsham YMCA.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Thamesmead: Corinthian v Deal: Furness v Ramsgate. Greenwich v Chatham, Lordswood v Slade Green: Sheppey v Tunbridge Wells; Whitstable Town v Cray; Woolwich v Herne Bay.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Kempston v Boston Long Buckby v Eynesbury; Potton v Ford Sports; St Neots v Holbeach; Spalding v Cogenhoe; S and L Corby v Newport Pagnell: Stotfold v Wellingborough: Wootton v Stamford.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bridg*north v Knypersley V. Chasetown v Barwell,* Halesowen H v Blorwich Town, Oldbury U v *Hinckley Athletic, Pelsall V v Boldmere St M,* Pershore T v Rocester, Rushall O v *Blakenhall: Sandwell v Stratford T,* Shifnal T v W Mid Police; Willenhall v Stapenhill.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Vauxhall GM; Chadderton v Eastwood H; Mossley v Newcastle Town, *Nantwich Town v Penrith;* St Helens v Holker Old Boys. Trafford v Salford.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: *Premier division: Bilston Community College* v Wellesbourne; Boldmere S v *Alvechurch; Coleshill v Highgate:* Kenilworth v Coventry Sphinx; King's Heath v Richmond Swifts; Knowle v *David Lloyd;* Shirley v Handrahan Timbers; Southam v Meir KA; Worcestero v Massey Ferguson

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley Town v Gornal Res; *Stourport S v Wednesfield; Tividale* v Ludlow T: Walsall Wood v Stafford T; *Westfields v Brierley Hill T: Wolverhampton* C v Lye Town: Wolverhampton United v *Darlaston*

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Morpeth, Consett v Easington; Guisborough v Whickham; Whitby v Tow Law.

NORTHERN COUNTIES *EAST LEAGUE:* Premier division: Denaby v Brigg Town: *Hucknall Town* v *Selby; Maltby MW* v Hatfield Main: North Ferriby v Armthorpe; Ossett Albion v Hallam; Pickering v Arnold; Sheffield v Belper Town, Thackley v Pontefract Cols

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cliftonville v Glenavon, Coleraine v *Linfield, Glentoran v Ards; Portadown* v Crusaders First division: Ballyclare v *Ballymena; Bangor* v *Carrick; Distillery* v Newry; Omagh v Larne

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Charlton (11.0); Chelsea v Millwall (11.0), Ipswich v Watford (11.0), Norwich v Arsenal (11.0): Portsmouth v Southend (11.0). Second division: Bournemouth v Colchester (12.0), Luton v Bristol City (11.0); Oxford Utd v Wimbledon (11.0); *Southampton v Brentford (11.0).*

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First *division: Civil Service v Old Esthamelans:* East Barnet OG v Carshalton; NatWest Bank v *Norsemen, Old Parmiterians* v Crouch End Vampires

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chigwellians v Cholmeleians, Foresters v Brentwoods

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: *Latymer OB v Old Tenisonians, Old* Aloysians v Glyn OB

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Nottsborough v Southgate County: St Mary's Coll v Wandsworth Bor; Wilan v Ulysses.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Croydon Cup: Final: Croydon v Worthing (10.30) English Schools Wagon Wheels five-a-side finals *(at Aston Villa Leisure Centre,* 11.0)

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance
county championship

11.0, final day of four, 96 overs minimum

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Hampshire
CARDIFF: *Glamorgan v Warwickshire*
CANTERBURY: Kent v Derbyshire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Durham
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Gloucestershire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset
HOVE: Sussex v Northamptonshire

University match

11.0, 50 overs

THE PARKS: *British Universities v* Yorkshire

HOCKEY

INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: City of *Portsmouth* v *Chelmsford* (10.0): Edgbaston v Hampstead and Westminster *(12.0); Loughborough Students v Robinson* (2.0): Norton v Anchorians (4.0) (at Milton *Keynes)*

NISSAN IRISH CUP: Final: Lisnagarvey v Pembroke W (at UC Dublin, 2.30)

MEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Doncaster v Chesterfield; Droitwich v Wednesbury; Lichfield v Aldridge; Whitchurch v Swansea.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: *Finals (at Chigwell). Group A: Surrey* v Northamptonshire (10.0): Lancashire v *Gloucestershire (11.45); Northamptonshire* v Humberside (1.30); Gloucestershire v Kent (3.15) Group B: Dorset v Humberside (10.0); Staffordshire v Kent (11.45); Surrey v Dorset (1.30). Lancashire v Staffordshire (3.15)

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bowdon v Colwyn Bay; ECV v Eagles, Olton v Harborne.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Oldham St Anne's v Lock Lane; West Hull v Egremont. Wigan St Patrick's v Dudley Hill First division: Wigan St Jude's v Askam. Second division: Featherstone Amateur v Milford. Ovenden v York Acorn, Skirlaugh v Dewsbury Moor

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bath v Sale
Gloucester v Bristol
Leicester v Harlequins
Northampton v Wasps (2.15)
Orrell v Saracens
West Hartlepool v London Irish

Second division

Coventry v Bedford
Moseley v Rotherham
Newcastle v London Scottish
Richmond v Nottingham
Wakefield v Blackheath
Waterloo v Rugby

Third division

Clifton v Lydney
Fylde v London Welsh
Havant v Leeds
Liverpool St Helens v Harrogate
Morley v Redruth
Otley v Exeter
Reading v Wharfedale
Rosslyn Park v *Walsall*

Fourth division north

Birmingham/Solihull v Aspatria
Kendal v Sheffield
Lichfield v Hereford
Manchester v Stoke-on-Trent
Preston Grasshoppers v Winnington Park
Sandal v Stourbridge
Worcester v Nuneaton

Fourth division south

Barking v Tabard
Camberley v Berry Hill
Henley v Cheltenham
High Wycombe v Askeans
Metropolitan Police v North Walsham
Newbury v Plymouth
Weston-super-Mare v Charlton Park

SOUTH WEST: First division: Barnstaple v Stroud, Bridgwater v St Ives, Camborne v Maidenhead, Launceston v Gloucester Old Boys; Matson v Brixham, Salisbury v Torquay

NORTH: First division: Bradford and Bingley v Hull Ionians, Bridlington v Wigton; *Broughton Park v New Brighton:* Macclesfield v Stockton; Widnes v Tynedale: West Park Bramhope v Sedgley *Park.*

MIDLANDS: First division: Belgrave v Leighton Buzzard

Swalec Cup
Final

Cardiff v Swansea
(at Cardiff Arms Park)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF) Amsterdam Admirals v London Monarchs (7.0)

BOXING: European middleweight championship: Hussine Cherifi (Fr, holder) v Neville Brown (Burton) (at Swadlincote)

GOLF: Men's International: Scotland v France (at St Andrews), Helen Holm Scottish Open *strokeplay championship* (Portland and Royal Troon).

LACROSSE: *Shepherds Friendly Society* League: Premier division: Cheadle Hulme v *Boardman and Eccles; Moorthorpe* v Heaton Mersey; Mellor v Stockport

MOTOR RALLYING: Pirelli International Rally (at Carlisle).

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradford v Ipswich (7.30); *Coventry v Swindon (7.30);* Eastbourne v Belle Vue (7.30). Premier League Cup: *Arena Essex v Oxford (8.0):* Berwick v Glasgow (7.0). Stoke v Edinburgh *(7.30)*

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

TENPIN BOWLING: Silk Cut League: *National* final (at Airport bowl, Harlington, 9.0-4.30).

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men; *First division:* Warwick Rige v *Sportset* Whitefield (6.30); Crofton Sportswearhouse v *Reebok Liverpool City (3.0)*

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League
First division

Port Vale v Wolverhampton (1.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: *Premier division: Bray v Derry (3.15).* Cork v Shamrock (3.15), Finn Harps v Sligo *(3.15). Shelbourne v Dundalk (3.15)* St Patrick's Ath v Home Farm (3.15). UCD v Bohemians *(3.15)*

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE. National division; Arsenal v Liverpool (at Highbury, 12.0), Tranmere v Millwall (at Heswall FC, 2.0).

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Blyth Spartans v Aston Villa (3.0) *Southern division: Three Bridges* v Berkhamsted (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Super League

Bradford v Sheffield (6.0)
London v Leeds (6.35)
Oldham v Halifax
St Helens v *Castleford*
(at Anfield)
Warrington v Paris Saint-Germain

First division

Featherstone v Widnes (3.30)
Huddersfield v Workington (3.30)
Wakefield v Keighley (3.30)
Whitehaven v Hull KR (3.30)

Second division

Barrow v Lancashire Lynx
Bramley v Carlisle
Hunslet v Doncaster (3.30)
Leigh v York
Rochdale v Prescot

RUGBY UNION

Welsh League
First division

Treorchy v Newport (2.30)

Tennents 1556 Cup
Semi-finals

Boroughmuir v Heriot's FP
(at Currie, 2.0)
Kirkcaldy v Melrose
(at Netherdale, 2.0)

TENNENTS 1556 BOWL: Semi-finals: *Biggar v Ross High (at Netherdale, 3.30).* Trinity Academicals v Selkirk (at Penrypol, 2.0)

TENNENTS 1556 SHIELD: Semi-finals: Glasgow High/Kelvinside v Aberdeen GSFP (at Duffus Park, *Cupar, 2.0),* Hawick v *Currie* (at Gytes LC, Peebles, 2.0).

CRICKET

Axa Life League

2.0, 40 overs

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Hampshire
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Warwickshire
CANTERBURY: *Kent v Derbyshire*
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Durham
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Gloucestershire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v *Worcestershire*
THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset
HOVE: *Sussex v Northamptonshire*

HOCKEY

HA CUP: *Semi-finals:* Reading v St Albans (2.0), Surbiton v Teddington (2.30)

INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: *City of* Portsmouth v Loughborough Students (10.0), Edgbaston v Norton (12.0), *Chelmsford* v Robinsons (2.0); Hampstead and Westminster v Anchorians (4.0) (at Milton *Keynes)*

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (at *Chigwell): Group A: Humberside v Surrey* (10.0): Dorset v Northamptonshire (10.0) Group B: Kent v Lancashire (11.45). *Staffordshire v Gloucestershire (11.45).* Final (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League *(WLAF) Scottish Claymores v Rhein Fire (at* Murrayfield, 3.0).

GOLF: Men's International: Scotland v France (at St Andrews); Helen Holm *Scottish Open strokeplay championship (at* Portland and Royal Troon).

MOTOR RACING: British Formula Three championship (at Brands Hatch)

MOTOR RALLYING: Pirelli International Rally (at Carlisle)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League Cup: Glas*gow v Stoke (6.30):* Newcastle v Hull (6.30), Skegness v Reading (6.30) Amateur *League: Lathallan v Berwick (2.30).* Mildenhall v Ipswich and King's Lynn (3.30): *Reading and Swindon v Ryde (IoW) (at* Reading, 2.30)

TABLE TENNIS: *World championships (at* Manchester)

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Women: *First division:* Reebok Liverpool City v Britannia Music City (12.45): London Malory *v Smoke Free Birmingham (12.30); Shef*field Wednesday v Manchester United Salford (2.30)

CRICKET: YORKSHIRE AND ESSEX APPEAL AS LIKELIEST CHALLENGERS TO CHAMPIONS IN BATTLE FOR RECORD PRIZE

Surrey aiming to put on Sunday best again

Alan Lee previews the new season of one-day league cricket that gets under way tomorrow

PLENTY of voices in cricket are regularly raised against the Sunday league. Some blame it for declining standards, others simply condemn it as an exhausted formula ready for redundancy. Abolitionists are rife. Tomorrow, however, it enters its 29th season and, no matter what reforms are applied to the county programme next year, rest assured that the league will remain.

The rationale for its existence has always been that it provides a brief and easily understood style of cricket at a time accessible to a young audience. This is still a logical and powerful argument, one that will persuade the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to retain it, no matter how many interested parties, including a number of counties, may canvass for its extinction.

Changes are not discounted, however, and the Sunday element of the equation is far from sacred. Experimentation with floodlit games in midweek — there will be at least three this summer — will be encouraged, especially if television companies are supportive. The ECB has a healthy envy of the popularity of the FA Carling Premiership and playing the league games on different days of the week, it believes, could heighten the league's appeal.

Now that the dreaded "Sunday sandwich", when championship fixtures were interrupted, has largely been eliminated by a change of starting day for four-day games, the number of overs could be increased to 50, improving the product and recreating the league as one of only two, rather than the present three, county one-day events.

This, though, is at least one-year distant, probably more. For now, under its latest title as the Axa Life League, the parameters that have survived most of the league's life will stay in place as Surrey defend the one title they have won in the past 15 years.

Dave Gilbert, the immensely influential coach at the Oval, is as much motivator as technical adviser and he insists that the relief and reassurance gained from winning the league will unlock the door to higher honours for his team. He may be right.

Surrey have not begun auspiciously in the county championship, where for some years now their potential has far outstripped their performance, and the sceptics among us need some convincing that they have reformed their entrenched habit of spinelessness in the long-distance games.

The sprints, however, are a different matter and although the leading bookmakers beg to differ, three of them preferring the chances of Warwickshire, Surrey deserve to start favourites to win this title again. They bat at a higher tempo than most opponents, can boast enough genuine all-rounders to suit this form of the game and have acquired a proven match-winner in Ian Salisbury.

The development of the Hollioake brothers, perhaps even the competition between them, promises to be a feature of this season and, although Surrey will feel the absence of Brendon Julian on Sundays, they should have Chris Lewis available for the majority of the summer and will have the emerging Alex Tudor to give bite to their bowling.

Nottinghamshire lost out only on run-rate last season but, even allowing for the eccentricities of 40-overs cricket, it seems inconceivable that they can come so close again. Yorkshire, third last year, are far likelier contenders and, if Essex start well, they can belie their 1996 position, one off the bottom, and mount a serious challenge for the record £42,000 prize.

The BBC and Sky Television will both screen live matches through the summer, the satellite channel opening up tomorrow with coverage of Nottinghamshire's game against Worcestershire at Trent Bridge. Surrey start at home against Somerset and there will be sympathetic interest in Durham's attempt to equal last year's miserable tally of one win when they play Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Derbyshire hopes go down with DeFreitas

By Pat Gibson

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, require 278 runs to beat Kent

SO LONG as Phillip DeFreitas was working his way through the Kent second innings, with a masterly exhibition of controlled fast-medium bowling, Derbyshire had every chance of winning this fascinating curtain-raiser to the new county championship season. Then he broke down with a groin strain, and Derbyshire began to fall apart.

Devon Malcolm's notoriously wonky radar had already gone on the blink to such an extent that he was to concede 112 runs in 20.4 overs; Dominic Cork could not help much either, because of a groin strain of his own, and, by the time that Paul Strang and Martin McCague had finished with what was left of the attack, Derbyshire had been set to score a formidable 337 to win.

To make matters worse, Andy Hayhurst, their new signing, had damaged his right knee so badly in the field that he will only be able to bat with a runner as a last resort. He will then be able to concentrate on his other job, as second-team coach, while he recovers from a torn cartilage.

Michael Atherton would have known exactly how Dean Jones, the Derbyshire captain, felt when he found himself going out to bat with his side already reduced to 14 for two. Although a surprisingly carefree Chris Adams had helped him to take them to 59 for two by the time the rain arrived, it may have to be a do-it-yourself job for Jones if they are to win today.

It had looked as though Kent's hopes of setting Derbyshire a challenging target would depend on Trevor Ward, who had batted so well the night before, but he had added only a single to his 95 when he tried to force DeFreitas through the off side and edged the ball on to his off stump.

Instead it was Strang, the Zimbabwean recruit, who took the fight to Derbyshire, seizing on Malcolm's waywardness with a relish for the offside which will bring him plenty of runs until the professionals on the circuit work him out and start to bowl a more restrictive line. Five fours off Malcolm, giving him 11 in all, took Strang to 50 off only 39 balls, and there were two more boundaries before he carved DeFreitas into the hands of third man.

Marsh had already become DeFreitas's fourth leg-before victim of the innings, giving him figures of seven for 64 when he pulled up at the start of his eighth over of the morning and left the Derbyshire attack with a decidedly threadbare look.

His injury is not too serious — indeed, he made the gesture of returning to the field at the fall of Kent's ninth wicket only to be waved away by Jones, who knew that he would not be allowed to bowl anyway — and, on this form, he could yet add to his 101 one-day international appearances. The recall could even be as a replacement for Cork, who looked laboured throughout and will now miss Derbyshire's next two one-day games.

Not that he was the only one who looked laboured. Jones had little alternative but to keep Malcolm trundling in and, by the time he got a wicket, McCague had helped himself to the fourth 50 of his career and Headley and Patel had helped him to put on 116 for the last two wickets.

Then a revitalised Kent went to work in the field. Ealham took a stunning catch, one-handed to his left at mid-off, when Rollins drove Headley off the back foot and Llong picked up another good one, two-handed to his right at second slip, to dismiss Barnett, also off the bowling of Headley.

Leicestershire willing to wait

LEICESTERSHIRE have failed in their efforts to sign Neil Johnson, the South African all-rounder, as their overseas player for this season. They are still negotiating with others, but, if they are not successful, they will wait for Phil Simmons to return at the end of May.

☐ Dickie Bird, the former Test umpire, has been made an honorary life member of the Cambridge University Cricket Club.

GRAHAM MORRIS

Rose, the Somerset seam bowler, finds amusement in Salisbury stealing a single for Surrey at the Oval

Caddick provides solitary success

By Michael Henderson

THE OVAL (third day of four): Surrey, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 254 runs behind Somerset

SOMERSET went to their beds happy men on Thursday night, having broken the back of Surrey's first innings so utterly that they could expect to enforce the follow-on early on the third day. The rain, which delayed the start by an hour and then returned to prevent the continuation of play after lunch, disrupted their progress.

To win this match they must now take 12 wickets today, which is possible but not very likely. Surrey, surely, will not surrender their wickets as foolishly as they did on the second afternoon when their batsmen played some dim cricket. Nevertheless they have had a useful warning shot across the bows in the very first match of what everybody imagines will be a fruitful season for them.

Somerset could bowl only 16 overs in the morning, for the wicket of Martin Bicknell, who was superbly held left-handed by the diving Turner as the batsman tried to turn Caddick behind square. Caddick had reverted to bowling round the wicket and deserved his success for, as he had done the previous evening, he ran in rhythmically and occasionally got the ball to "spit" at the batsmen.

When Van Troost, the fast Dutchman, is fit to retake his place, and when Mushtaq arrives to purvey his twirl, Somerset's bowling resources should be strong enough to make good the likely loss of Caddick to the Test side. The depth of the batting, one would have to say, is less certain.

Tomorrow all eyes are on English cricket's first exposure to the showbiz game familiar to crowds in other parts of the world. Surrey's "lions" will be accompanied to the crease by snatches of favoured songs, and a disc jockey will be on hand to jolly things along. Or not.

Newell heightens Sussex satisfaction

By Simon Wilde

HOVE (third day of four): Sussex, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

SUSSEX have scarcely put a foot wrong in this match but they will be hard-pushed to claim victory. Steady drizzle yesterday delayed the start by half an hour and the players came off for the last time at 12.20pm. The forecast is equally unsettled for today, but whatever the result, the game has injected optimism into a Sussex season for which there had previously been only the bleakest predictions.

After the impressive debuts of the two stalwarts, Mark Robinson and Neil Taylor, it was the turn yesterday of Keith Newell, 25, to confirm his promise by completing a maiden championship century. For the past two seasons, Newell has been no more than a fringe player. Although he scored a half-century in his first match and a century — in a memorable defeat of the touring West Indians — in his second. This is only his seventeenth first-class game, and he has now three centuries to his credit.

"The way Keith has started the season is absolutely no surprise to the other players," Peter Moores, the Sussex captain, said. "His pre-season form was terrific and the prospect of a regular first-team place has brought him out of himself."

Newell and Jarvis took their seventh-wicket partnership from 41 to 107, Newell reaching his hundred with a square-cut boundary off Mohammad Akram. Jarvis dominated the partnership and there were ten fours and a six in his hard-hitting 64, an innings which Akram ended shortly before the rain came.

Glamorgan rewarded with late dismissals

By John Thicknesse

CARDIFF (third day of four): Warwickshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 323 runs behind Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN'S patience was rewarded at Cardiff yesterday, where, having waited six hours for the Sophia Gardens floodwaters to recede, then missed two catches when the game restarted at 5pm, they still bagged two of the nine Warwickshire wickets they need to begin their county championship programme with a thumping win today.

It looked as though Glamorgan had lost their chance when Andy Moles, the acting captain, and Graeme Welch, the nightwatchman, survived 19 of the 24 overs they were due to face when play finally got under way. Not only was luck running Warwickshire's way in the form of mis-hits falling safe, but each batsman had had a life.

Robert Croft, diving to his right at slip, could not hold a half-chance when Welch, on 31, flashed hard at Darren Thomas. Then, when Moles was 37, Alun Evans, one of the two substitute fielders, dropped him at leg slip, also off Thomas.

Frustration turned immediately to delight, however, when, off the first ball of the next over, Welch came down the pitch to Croft and drove him straight to mid-off. Welch, who half an hour earlier had punished Butcher for three fours in four balls, each with an authentic batsman's stroke, was furious with himself, and understandably so.

With only four more overs to be bowled, Allan Donald was sent in as nightwatchman, and, off the last but one ball of the final over, departed to a brilliant diving catch by Adrian Shaw, the wicketkeeper. It brought belated reward for Thomas for two fast spells.

At the start of the day it had seemed highly unlikely that there would be any play at all, rain through the night and morning having turned the outfield into a miniature lake. But, by noon, the sky had cleared and, by 3pm, the umpires, Constant and Kitchen, were carrying out the first of two inspections.

Hugh Morris, hit hard on the head by a Donald bouncer on Thursday, was putting a brave face on things yesterday. "I've still got the bruise above my ear, and I don't have to touch it to know it's tender," he said. "When Donald hit me, everything went black. I had a tingling sensation at the side of my face, and I felt sick and light-headed." He nevertheless intends to field today.

IN BRIEF

McMillan decides to retire from ring

COLIN McMILLAN, the former World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, yesterday announced his retirement from boxing. McMillan lost his British title to Paul Ingle in January and has now decided to pursue a career outside the ring.

"I didn't want to rush into a decision," McMillan, 31, said. "I wanted to think it through and weigh up everything and now I feel it's time for me to call it a day and move on.

"I couldn't get motivated for the last fight against Ingle. Once you've fought at world level, it's hard to get yourself motivated for other fights against some of the young, hungry guys who want to get your scalp on their record as a former world champion."

Bowls: Tony Allcock, the world outdoor champion, forced his way back into the frame for a place in the semi-finals of the Mazda Jack High international singles tournament in Sydney yesterday when he scored an exciting 7-9, 9-7, 9-8 victory over Kevin Walsh, of Australia.

David Gourlay, the 1996 world indoor champion, from Prestwick, was beaten in straight sets by Roma Dunn, of Western Australia, whose 9-2, 9-8 victory will revive calls for the inclusion of women in leading events.

Squash: Wales reached the final of the men's European team championship for the first time with a 3-1 win over France in the semi-finals in Odense, Denmark yesterday. Their opponents today will be England who beat Finland 4-0 in the other semi-final.

Cycling: A record 143 riders start today in the three-stage Procam Classic, the fifth event in the Premier Calendar competition. The race, based in Beverley, Yorkshire, has attracted the best field of the year. Rob Hayles has a clear lead with three victories.

Tennis: Michael Chang, the No 1 seed, narrowly avoided defeat at the hands of Juan Albert Viloca, of Spain, in the United States men's clay court championships in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Chang eventually overcame Viloca 6-2, 6-7, 7-5 to reach the quarter-finals.

HOCKEY

Hampstead inspired by Crowley

By Sydney Friskin

MARK CROWLEY, the South League's top scorer, played a prominent part in the 3-0 victory for Hampstead and Westminster against Norton in the Inter-League play-offs at Milton Keynes yesterday.

Crowley made Hampstead's second goal in the 45th minute and provided Robert Thompson with a perfect pass for the third 13 minutes later. Thompson, playing at centre half, had scored Hampstead's first goal from a short corner in the ninth minute.

Norton, the North League champions, had no luck with a succession of short corners.

In pool A, there were victories for Chelmsford and City of Portsmouth against the newcomers, Loughborough Students, and Robinson, respectively. Chelmsford built a 3-1 lead by half-time with goals by Cullen from a short corner, Thorogood and Whitford, from another short corner. Butler levelled the score at 1-1 for Loughborough, who were finally silenced when Whitford converted another short corner ten minutes before the end for a 4-1 victory.

Robinson, the West League champions, made a lively start against City of Portsmouth but were somewhat erratic with their shooting and lost 2-0. Hayward converted a short corner for City of Portsmouth in the twelfth minute and Avery, formerly of Havant, scored from a penalty stroke five minutes later. Two shots by King, Robinson's captain, went astray in the second half.

Edgbaston defeated Anchorians 1-0 in pool B, McMillan scoring in the 32nd minute from a penalty stroke.

☐ After retiring from the county scene five years ago, Linda Carr, the former England and Great Britain captain, is turning out as player-coach for Lancashire in the county championship finals at Old Loughtonians this weekend. Carr, 41, won every domestic indoor and outdoor title with Lancashire and Hightown.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Hampshire

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, require 525 runs to beat Essex

ESSEX: First Innings 246 (P J Prichard 65, C A Connor 7 for 46)

Second Innings

G A Gooch lbw b Stephenson	34
*P J Prichard b James	56
N Hussain lbw b James	22
S G Law c Aymes b Stephenson	78
R C Irani not out	123
D D J Robinson c Keech b James	0
D R Law c Keech b Mascarenhas	13
†B J Hyam c Laney b Stephenson	1
M C Ilott b Udal	42
A P Cowan not out	29
Extras (b 2, lb 16, w 2, nb 24)	44
Total (8 wkts dec)	442

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-126, 3-139, 4-267, 5-276, 6-300, 7-307, 8-398

BOWLING: Connor 12-0-66-0; Milburn 11-0-75-0; Stephenson 20-3-74-3; James 22-0-106-3; Mascarenhas 15-2-46-1; Udal 16-2-55-1

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 161 (A P Cowan 5 for 49)

Second Innings

J S Laney not out	3
M L Hayden not out	0
Total (no wkt)	3

BOWLING: Ilott 1-0-3-0

Bonus points: Essex 5, Hampshire 4

Umpires: J C Balderstone and V A Holder

Glamorgan v Warwickshire

CARDIFF (third day of four): Warwickshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 323 runs behind Glamorgan

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 151 (S D Thomas 4 for 62)

Second Innings

*A J Moles not out	40
W G Khan b Thomas	0
G Welch c Dale b Croft	35
A A Donald c Shaw b Thomas	0
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (3 wkts)	77

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-74, 3-77

BOWLING: Watkin 12-3-15-0; Thomas 12.5-3-31-2; Croft 7-4-10-1; Butcher 3-0-21-0

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 551 for 3 dec (H Morris 233, A Dale 106, S P James 83)

Bonus points: Glamorgan 8, Warwickshire 0

Umpires: M J Kitchen and D J Constant

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, require 278 runs to beat Kent

KENT: First Innings 251 (M A Ealham 72 not out, S A Marsh 57, D E Malcolm 6 for 74)

Second Innings

D P Fulton lbw b DeFreitas	32
N J Llong c Jones b DeFreitas	12
T R Ward b DeFreitas	96
A P Wells lbw b DeFreitas	0
M V Fleming lbw b DeFreitas	0
M A Ealham c Cork b Dean	6
P A Strang c Rollins b DeFreitas	69
*†S A Marsh lbw b DeFreitas	12
M J McCague not out	52
D W Headley c Krikken b Dean	22
M M Patel c Rollins b Malcolm	30
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total	333

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-79, 3-79, 4-79, 5-120, 6-180, 7-218, 8-227, 9-293

BOWLING: Cork 19-5-50-0; Malcolm 20.4-0-112-1; DeFreitas 20-5-64-7; Dean 11-1-43-2; Clarke 6-0-53-0; Rollins 1-0-9-0

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 248 (K M Krikken 61, M J McCague 6 for 75, D W Headley 4 for 51)

Second Innings

K J Barnett c Llong b Headley	6
A S Rollins c Ealham b Headley	0
C J Adams not out	33
*D M Jones not out	19
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (2 wkts)	59

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-14

BOWLING: Headley 6-1-14-2; McCague 7.2-1-38-0; Ealham 2-0-6-0

Bonus points: Kent 6, Derbyshire 5

Umpires: K E Palmer and P Willey

Surrey v Somerset

THE OVAL (third day of four): Surrey, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 254 runs behind Somerset

SOMERSET: First Innings 463 (R J Harden 136 not out, P D Bowler 62, S Hertzberg 56, M N Lathwell 50)

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell c and b Hertzberg	49
M A Butcher st Turner b Hertzberg	46
†A J Stewart lbw b Rose	6
G P Thorpe lbw b Rose	8
N Shahid c Turner b Shine	29
*A J Hollioake c and b Rose	0
C C Lewis c Holloway b Caddick	3
I D K Salisbury not out	30
M P Bicknell c Turner b Caddick	13
A J Tudor not out	3
Extras (b 2, lb 9, w 4, nb 8)	23
Total (8 wkts, 76 overs)	209

J E Benjamin to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-94, 2-109, 3-120, 4-121, 5-121, 6-143, 7-172, 8-206

BOWLING: Caddick 26-2-64-2; Shine 8-2-41-1; Rose 18-7-35-3; Hertzberg 15-9-25-2; Burns 5-3-3-0

Bonus points: Surrey 4, Somerset 7

Umpires: B Dudleston and J H Harris

Sussex v Northamptonshire

HOVE (third day of four): Sussex, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 315 (R R Montgomerie 66, D J Capel 57, J N Snape 55, M A Robinson 6 for 78)

SUSSEX: First Innings

N J Lenham lbw b Taylor	0
K Greenfield c Montgomerie b Mohammad Akram	4
N R Taylor c Snape b Capel	127
C W J Athey lbw b Mohammad Akram	50
K Newell not out	107
V C Drakes c Snape b Taylor	14
*†P Moores st Warren b Emburey	5
P W Jarvis lbw b Mohammad Akram	64
N C Phillips not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 7, nb 30)	39
Total (7 wkts, 105 overs)	411

A A Khan and M A Robinson to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-15, 3-137, 4-263, 5-298, 6-303, 7-410

BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 22-2-118-3; Taylor 20-7-52-2; Curran 9-3-32-0; Snape 16-4-55-0; Emburey 14-2-39-1; Capel 13-1-57-1; Penberthy 11-1-49-0

Bonus points: Sussex 3, Northamptonshire 6

Umpires: A Clarkson and A G T Whitehead

No play yesterday

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Lancashire 506 (G D Lloyd 102, P J Martin 78 not out, J E R Gallian 73, G Chapple 66, M Watkinson 51). Durham 201-6 (D C Boon 85 not out)

LEICESTER (third day of four): Gloucestershire 245 (S Young 59, P C Russell 57, A D Mullally 5 for 52) and 8-0. Leicestershire 307 (D L Maddy 80, P A Nixon 77 not out)

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Worcestershire 417 (T S Curtis 113, T M Moody 70, W P C Weston 52, M N Bowen 5 for 99). Nottinghamshire 196-3 (P R Pollard 81, R T Robinson 80)

University matches

Cambridge University v Middlesex

FENNER'S (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 359 for 2 dec (M W Gatting 160, P E Wellings 128 not out)

Second Innings

P N Weekes c Jones b How	101
D C Nash c and b Freeth	21
J C Pooley not out	28
†K R Brown not out	1
Extras (b 5, lb 2, w 2)	9
Total (2 wkts)	160

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-154.

BOWLING: How 10.4-2-58-1; Schaffter 8-3-19-0; Freeth 8-0-31-1; House 3-0-30-0; Jones 7-2-25-0.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 235.

Umpires: H D Bird and N G Cowley

No play yesterday

THE PARKS (final day of three): Yorkshire 335-2 dec (D Byas 126 not out, A McGrath 106 not out, M D Moxon 53) and 275-2 (B Parker 138 not out, M P Vaughan 109). Oxford University 114. Match abandoned as a draw

TOUR MATCH: Port of Spain (one day): Indians 274-6 (S C Ganguly 101, N S Sidhu 70); Vice Chancellor's XI 242 (S Chanderpaul 66, B C Lara 57). Indians win by 32 runs

Irani enjoys himself at bowlers' expense

By Ivo Tennant

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, require 525 runs to beat Essex

ONLY 14 overs were possible at Chelmsford yesterday, but that was quite sufficient time for Ronnie Irani to make the highest score of his career. His unbeaten 123 included the kind of bludgeoned drives that cause bowlers to repine. The upshot is that Hampshire will need 525 to win today, a total that, it can be assumed, they will not achieve.

There are various ways of celebrating a century and most of them are increasingly unappealing. Irani, who had 95 runs to his name overnight, kissed his bat and blew another to the dressing-room. Nevertheless, his was an excellent innings, one that included 14 fours and came off 197 balls. Only Stuart Law has batted more impressively in this match.

The one wicket to fall was that of Ilott, who was bowled by a quicker ball from Udal as he shaped to drive. He had given useful support to Irani, which was more than could be said of the lower middle-order. The same was true of Cowan, who pulled Udal for six and batted merrily until the declaration was made.

If the weather continues to be poor, it will inevitably be said that Essex should have declared earlier. Not many people would have reckoned Hampshire would score 400, let alone 528, and besides, there is still some help for the medium-pace bowlers in this pitch. Rain, scarcely seen in this parts for weeks, is now the chief concern of Essex.

هكذا من الاعلى

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan rides luck in fine style

By Phil Yates

TWO exceptional clearances, some solid scoring and an outrageous fluke combined to help Ronnie O'Sullivan to close in on a quarter-final appearance in the Embassy world championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

O'Sullivan, already likely to qualify for a £165,000 bonus after his maximum 147 break in the first round, is also among the favourites for the winner's cheque of £210,000. He lived up to that billing by building a 9-7 lead over Darren Morgan.

Playing at his fluent best only in flashes during the early exchanges on Thursday, O'Sullivan trailed 5-3 overnight. On the resumption, though, it quickly became clear he was in no mood to remain subdued as he won the day's opening frame, from 46-1 down, with a 68 clearance.

DETAILS

RESULTS: First round (best of 19 frames) D Dale (Wales) bt A Drago (Malta) 10-9. Second round (best of 25 frames): S Hendry (Scot) level with M Williams (Wales) 4-4; A McManus (Scot) leads L Walker (Wales) 9-7, A Robidoux (Can) leads S Mazrocis (Eng) 5-3; R O'Sullivan (Eng) leads D Morgan (Wales) 9-7

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: 1.05pm, 3.55pm. BBC2: 10.30am, 5.15pm, 9.50pm. Tomorrow: BBC2: 1.55pm, 11.40pm.

O'Sullivan accounted for three of the next five frames, even though Morgan constructed breaks of 52 and 108, before his underrated tactical sense indirectly lead to success in the fifteenth for an 8-7 advantage. Leading 54-13, Morgan was placed in a fiendish snooker behind the black. He failed to escape, left an opening and O'Sullivan capitalised on an opportunity born of uncharacteristic patience with a 64 clearance.

Luck played the most significant role in determining the outcome of the session's final frame. When O'Sullivan went in off the blue, Morgan, faced with a tricky safety shot, wisely requested him to play again. It was a decision he would come to regret as O'Sullivan fluke-doubled the blue off the top cushion to a middle pocket at the most acute angle imaginable. When O'Sullivan showed no remorse by subsequently potting the pink to lead 9-7, he was left requiring only four of the scheduled nine frames today to secure an eagerly-awaited encounter against Stephen Hendry or Mark Williams.

With the memory of his 9-2 drubbing in the British Open final only three weeks ago still fresh, Hendry made a hesitant start against Williams and left the auditorium more than happy to be on level terms at 4-4. Hendry, attempting to record his 27th consecutive match win at the Crucible, quickly found himself 2-0 behind as Williams, universally regarded as the game's most outstanding potter, settled down immediately.

A last red-to-pink clearance gave Hendry the third frame, but the title-holder surprisingly tossed away a gilt-edged opportunity to gain the momentum after Williams, 59-0 up in the fourth, had carelessly missed a straightforward red. Hendry, a master at wrenching such frames from a rival, replied with 42, but, despite the colours being at his mercy, he jawed the yellow off its spot. Williams made no such mistake and his run of 66 in the fifth frame increased Hendry's concern.

However, Williams failed to convert his encouraging start into a first-session lead. After losing the sixth frame to a run of 41, Williams, in first with 33 in the next, failed to pot a crucial red having entered prime scoring territory. Hendry pounced with 59 in recovering to 3-4 and prevailed in the eighth as well.

Alan McManus constructed breaks of 100, 54 and 51 in earning a 9-7 lead over Lee Walker, the world No 187, who would have found himself in even deeper trouble had he not snatched one frame after requiring a snooker with three reds still left on the table.

Rios drives a fierce forehand during his easy win against Larsson in Monte Carlo yesterday

Krajicek slips on slow surface

FOR a while, at least, Richard Krajicek must have wondered if it was too good to be true. A master of serve-and-volley, who found the grass tennis courts of southwest London very much to his liking when he won Wimbledon last year, he was heading for the semi-finals of the Monte Carlo Open, one of the premier tournaments played on slow, red European clay. In the end, of course, it was too good to be true and Krajicek, the big Dutchman, bowed out, beaten by Carlos Moyà, of Spain.

Moyà was brought up on the surface and, having lost the first set 6-1, put his expertise to good use to win the next two 6-2, 6-4 and, with them, the match. His reward is his second appearance in a clay-court semi-final in the space of a week, having reached the same stage in Barcelona.

Moyà, the No 6 seed, will be one of two Spaniards in the last four, joining Alex Corretja, the No 12 seed, who easily overcame Christian Ruud, a qualifier from Norway, 6-2, 6-0. Fabrice Santoro, of France, prevented yet another Spaniard from progressing to the same stage, beating Carlos Costa 6-3, 7-5. Santoro meets Costa in the next round, while Moyà takes on Marcelo Rios, of Chile, who brushed past Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, 6-1, 6-2.

Moyà was delighted with his win. "I slowed my serve a little bit at the start of the second set because trying to hit too hard in the first set I realised I was giving him chances to go to the net," he said. "That is useless on clay. You just need a different mentality."

☐ Mark Petchey, of Great Britain, lost to Nicolas Thomann, of France, 6-3, 6-3 in the semi-finals of a satellite tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Words of wisdom help to unravel name of the game

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

EVERY year or so, there is a new book on the bizarre wordage of cricket; something that explains what a googly is and why it is not a chinaman. The sort of thing that is useful for visiting Americans and small boys. However, I find on my desk this week a copy of John Eddowes' *The Language of Cricket* (Carcanet Press, £9.95) which has brought some genuine scholarship to cricket language, along with some pleasing shafts of humour.

In the latter vein, I was touched to find the word "rill" included, defined as "a delicate late cut played very close to the stumps" and attributed to me. It comes from my Coleridge pastiche, entitled *Imran Khan*, hoho:

So twice five furlongs fertile ground
With sponsors' tents was girdled round:
And there were pitches bright with sinuous rills
And watched by members ancient as the hills,
Roused from their slumbers at the cry: "How's that?"

But that's quite enough of that. I was also pleased to learn the etymology of sledging: "the oaf's parlette ... no instance of wit in sledging has yet been recorded ..."

The origin is traced to a four-letter indiscretion with ladies present, from (would you believe it?) an Australian player, Graham Corling, who was "as subtle as a sledgehammer". Corling thus acquired the nickname Percy Sledge, after the soul singer, and a *faux pas* in front of a woman became a "Percy" or a "sledging".

Thus, by degrees, it came to the specialised use it has today: trying to put a batsman off with gross, generally sexual, insults.

There is also an entry for Barmy Army: "As the origin of *barmy* is 'full of barm', which is 'the froth that forms on the top of fermenting malt liquors' ... the name seems well chosen."

Firing blanks

The failure of sporting stars is the best possible news, giving as it does hope to us all. Thus I am delighted to pass on news of the triumph of Dallas Mavericks basketball team. Basketball is a game in which the teams do nothing but score goals, a strange thing for our soccer-accustomed eyes. I was overjoyed to hear that the Mavericks managed to set an all-time record in the NBA by managing a mighty *nul points* — not a single field goal — in the entire second quarter of their match against LA Lakers.

I can't believe we only scored two

Picture this

Wisden Cricket Monthly is offering a colour poster of a rare, almost priceless photograph of England after they have won a Test match. And the drink is flying about the place in celebration, Athers getting the brunt of it. The fluids in question are mineral water and Coca-Cola. Oh, and eight of 15 players are wearing eejit-glasses — perhaps wisely seeking anonymity despite their dispatching of mighty New Zealand.

Deeper and down

The trouble with dropping bricks is that, once you have started, you cannot stop. You dig yourself in deeper and deeper. That is what has happened to the golfer, Fuzzy Zoeller. He referred to Tiger Woods, certainly young at 21, and certainly dark as to skin pigment, as "that little boy" in a piece published in *Pro Golf Weekly*.

The word "boy" is a term of racist abuse in the United States. Zoeller might — only might — have got away with this, but he had to compund his error. He added that he hoped Woods would not insist on fried chicken and water melon at the champion's dinner at Augusta next year, scene of Woods's recent triumph in the Masters.

Overwhelmed by his discretion, Zoeller has just pulled out of the Greensboro Classic tournament: "I cannot continue playing until I have spoken to Tiger."

Barren nights

Renzo Ulivieri, manager of Bologna football club, recently told his players to abstain from sex before their match against Juventus, which they lost 1-0. He later said, tongue-in-cheek — if that's quite the expression I am looking for — that they should abstain from sex in order to win a place in the Uefa Cup. This — sex, rather than the Uefa Cup — is not a joking matter in Italy. Ulivieri has received sackloads of mail, all containing sexual abuse, questioning his virility and his inclination towards members of the opposite sex.

TABLE TENNIS: VICTORY OVER ARMENIA COULD YET SALVAGE WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PROSPECTS

Radford helps to drag England back on course

By Richard Eaton

LINDA RADFORD, 21, overcame understandable nerves in her first world championships to apply the finishing touches to a 3-0 victory for England's women over Armenia in Manchester yesterday.

Radford confessed that she was "very nervous indeed", but nevertheless beat Mariana Shakya 21-13, 21-15 to ensure belated and much-needed success for a squad whose disappointing start was beginning to prompt whispers of relegation. "I don't even want to talk about that," Jill Parker, the England coach, said afterwards.

If Lisa Lomas, who secured her first win by beating Armine Makinian in straight games, can recapture her best form, all may yet be well. But, for 24 hours, the former European silver medal-winner looked uncharacteristically out of sorts.

This was in conspicuous contrast to the mood of the Chinese women, who romped past Japan 3-1, to add to three earlier 3-0 wins. They are already certain of a place in the next stage of the competition.

Deng Yaping, the world and Olympic champion, aggressively counter-attacked even the fiercest balls, and needed less than 20 minutes to dispatch Ai Sakata 21-7, 21-11. She then took only a little longer to beat Rika Matsuoka 21-14, 21-12.

Jie Schopp, a China-born German, also won, but hers was a long drawn-out encounter. With the match against North Korea standing at 2-2, Schopp's decider against Wi Bok Sun, a left-hander, looked a lost cause at 9-16 in the final game. Wi was producing puzzling backhand hits from the side of her bat, and it required patient and belated use of Schopp's bat technology to find an answer.

The adopted German began pushing and chopping and, at the same time, twiddling her combination bat to mix up the use of different rubbers within the same rally. It got Schopp back to 16-16, only for Wi to reach 19-16 and 20-18.

Schopp then saved the second match point in a rally in which both players had net cords. The winner came when the normally defensively-minded Schopp tried a sudden forehand hit and scored with it. It earned her embraces from all her team-mates and instilled belief that the Germans might challenge for a medal.

The victory also provided some joy for Manfred Schillings, a well-known official of the German Table Tennis Association, who was set upon and robbed outside his hotel on Thursday night.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

DOHA, Qatar: International men's meeting: Selected results: 100m: 1, R Stewart (Jam) 10.11sec. 2, L Christie (GB) 10.15; 3, M Green (Jam) 10.17, 6, D Campbell (GB) 10.33. 200m: 1, P Stevens (Bel) 20.31sec; 2, B Bronson (US) 20.36; 3, R Griffin (US), 20.55; 4, L Christie (GB) 20.59. 400m: 1, M McDonald (Jam) 44.79sec, 2, H Reynolds (US) 45.25; 3, S Bada (Nigeria) 45.51; 4, J Baulch (GB) 45.74. 1,500m: 1, B Koech (Ken) 3min 34.30sec; 2, M Kigen (Ken) 3 36.38; 3, W Tanui (Ken) 3.36.52; 5, A Whiteman (GB) 3.39.58. 110m hurdles: 1, J Pierce (US) 13.57sec; 2, C Jackson (GB) 13.65; 3, R Kingdom (US) 13.73.

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Collingwood 14.15 (99) bt Essendon 10.10 (70); Fremantle Dockers 16.11 (107) bt St Kilda 15.11 (101).

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 4 Chicago Cubs 3.

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	14	5	.737	—
Florida	10	9	.526	4
Montreal	9	9	.500	4½
NY Mets	8	12	.400	6½
Philadelphia	6	13	.316	8

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	13	7	.650	—
Pittsburgh	10	9	.526	2½
St Louis	7	12	.368	5½
Cincinnati	6	14	.300	7
Chicago Cubs	2	17	.105	10½

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	14	4	.778	—
Colorado	13	5	.722	1
Los Angeles	11	7	.611	3
San Diego	9	9	.500	5

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Texas 4 Detroit 2; Oakland 12 Minnesota 11 (11inns), Cleveland 6 Milwaukee 3; Boston 2 Baltimore 1 (12inns).

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	12	6	.667	—
Boston	11	9	.550	2
Toronto	9	9	.500	3
NY Yankees	10	11	.476	3½
Detroit	9	13	.409	5

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	11	10	.524	—
Cleveland	10	10	.500	½
Milwaukee	8	9	.471	1
Kansas City	8	10	.444	1½
Chicago White Sox	6	14	.300	4½

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	13	8	.619	—
Texas	10	8	.556	1½
Oakland	11	10	.524	2
Anaheim	9	10	.474	3

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Third place play-off: Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) 86 Villeurbanne (Fr) 79 (at Rome). Final: Olympiakos (Gr) 73 Barcelona (Sp) 58

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-offs: Eastern Conference: New York 109 Charlotte 99 (New York lead series 1-0); Miami 99 Orlando 64 (Miami lead series 1-0). Western Conference: Utah 106 Los Angeles Clippers 86 (Utah lead series 1-0); Houston 112 Minnesota 95 (Houston lead series 1-0).

BOWLS

SYDNEY: Mazda Jack High international tournament: Round robin: Section A: R Brassey (NZ) bt I Taylor (Aus) 9-2, 9-3; R Dunn (Aus) bt D Gourlay (Scot) 9-2, 9-8; Taylor bt S Glasson (Aus) 6-9, 9-6, 9-0. Section B: A Alcock (Eng) bt K Walsh (Aus) 7-9, 9-7, 9-8; N Burkett (SA) bt C Anderson (Norfolk Island) 9-4, 9-6.

TYE GREEN: Representative match: English Indoor Bowling Association bt British Wheelchair Bowlers Association 146-88

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three): Uxbridge: Middlesex 247 (S P Moffat 105, U C Afzaal 4-31) and 85-2: J Nottinghamshire 321 (N A Gie 120 not out; J C Harrison 4-66) Match drawn (second day of three). Taunton: Sussex 217 and 112-1 (M T Pearce 57 not out); Somerset 500-4 dec (K T Parsons 132, S C Ecclestone 108, M Dimond 108 not out, C M Wells 86 not out). Worcester: Leicestershire 208 and 134-5 (J M Dakin 69); Worcestershire 401 (D A Leatherdale 166).

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Tottenham Hotspur 3 West Ham United 0.

Thursday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals, second legs: Fiorentina (It) 0 Barcelona (Sp) 2 (Barcelona win 3-1 on aggregate); Liverpool 2 Paris Saint-Germain 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham Hotspur 1 Middlesbrough 0

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Watford 0 Chesterfield 2

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Farnborough 1 Woking 2

FAI HARP LAGER LEAGUE: Premier division: Shamrock Rovers 3 Bohemians 1

FA YOUTH CUP: Final, first leg: Leeds United 2 Crystal Palace 1.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Gloucester City 0 Atherstone 0

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield 0 Dagenham and Redbridge 1, Hitchin 2 Sutton Utd 5 Second division: Chalfont St Peter 0 Banstead Athletic 2 Full Members Cup: Semi-final replay: Aylesbury United 1 Yeading 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston Utd 2 Spennymoor 0; Colwyn Bay 0 Marine 0 First division: Ashton Utd 2 Matlock 0 President's Cup: Final, first leg: Runcorn 0 Blyth Spartans 1

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Carterton Town 1 Tuffley Rovers 3, Abingdon United 2 Lambourn Sports 1

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Brislington 0 Mangotsfield United 1: Bristol Manor Farm 2 Tiverton Town 5

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 6 Harwich and Parkeston 5; Diss 5 Felixstowe P and T 0

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Leicester City 2 Huddersfield Town 1 Second division. Grimsby Town 1 York City 1. Mansfield Town 2 Burnley 9.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham 1 Crockenhill 2. Canterbury 2 Sheppey 3. Slade Green 0 Herne Bay 1

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade 0 Hoddesdon 3. Welwyn Garden 0 Buckingham Athletic 2

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: S and L Corby 3 St Neots 2

LIBERTADORES CUP: Second round, first leg: Racing Club (Arg) 3 River Plate (Arg) 3. Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0 Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0; Guarani (Par) 2 Gremio (Br) 1. Minerven (Ven) 1 Bolivar (Bol) 1. Millonarios (Col) 2 Peñarol (Uru) 0

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Wembley Ladies 0 Southampton Saints 2

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: United States 4 France 2 (in Greensboro, North Carolina)

GOLF

GREENSBORO, North Carolina: PGA Greater Greensboro Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 66: A Lyle (GB), M Hulbert, R Damron 67: D Ogrin, B Faxon, J O'Keefe, K Triplett, T Kite, S Elkington (Aus), J Sindelar, S McRoy 68: K Perry, S Stricker, J Ozaki (Japan), J Maginnes, B Fabel, J Kelly, M Standly 69: P Jordan, S Gump, M Brisky, S Dunlap, F Funk, P Stankowski, R Estes, D Hart, V Singh (Fiji), D Martin, K Sutherland, H Sasaki (Japan), J Merce, E Els (SA), F Nobilo (NZ), M Wiebe, J Johnson

JAKARTA: Indonesian Open: Leaders after two rounds: 137: C Parry (Aus) 67, 70 139: N Kawahara (Japan) 69, 70. D Terblanche (SA) 69, 70 140: G Norquist (US) 71, 69 141: J Senior (Aus) 71, 70; P Foley (Aus) 70, 71. T Purdy (US) 67, 74 142: J Senden (Aus) 70, 72; C Wi (S Kor) 70, 72 143: K Walker (Scot) 74, 69; M Calcavecchia (US) 70, 73

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES. Inter-League play-offs: Pool A: Chelmsford 4 Loughborough Students 1, Robinson's 0 City of Portsmouth 2 Pool B: Hampstead and Westminster 3 Norton 0. Edgbaston 1 Anchorians 0

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Eastern Conference: Montreal 4 New Jersey 3 (3 OT: New Jersey lead series 3-1) Western Conference: Colorado 7 Chicago 0 (Colorado lead series 3-2). Phoenix 5 Anaheim 2 (Phoenix lead series 3-2)

RUGBY LEAGUE

International match

Australia 34 New Zealand 22

Australia: Tries: Furner 2, Sailor 2, Smith. Gower Goals: Girdler 5 New Zealand: Tries: Jones, Halligan, R Paul, Hoppe. Goals: Halligan 3 Att: 23,829.

(at Sydney)

UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Australia 16 New Zealand 17 (at Sydney).

STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH: Sydney 4 New South Wales Country 17 (at Sydney).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: West Hull 10 Dudley Hill 17, Woolston 52 Mayfield 7

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Castleford 40 St Helens 24; Featherstone 54 Warrington 18; Halifax 22 Oldham 34, Hull 24 Hull KR 10; Leeds 22 Bradford 8

RUGBY UNION

Super 12 tournament

Canterbury 23 Gauteng 0

Canterbury Crusaders: Tries: Mehrtens, Blackadder, So'oalo. Con: Mehrtens Pens: Mehrtens 2

(at Christchurch)

WELSH LEAGUE: Second division: South Wales Police 34 Llandovery 8

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 56 Coventry 34

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Sheffield 54 Hull 35

POSTPONED: Elite League: Belle Vue v Eastbourne, Peterborough v Coventry Premier League Cup: Oxford v Arena Essex Amateur League: Belle Vue v Reading and Swindon

SQUASH

ODENSE: European team championships: Selected results: Men: Final qualifying rounds: Pool A: England 4 Sweden 0: Wales 4 Germany 0 Pool B: Finland 3 Scotland 1. Pool E: Ireland 4 Belgium 0 Women: Final qualifying rounds: Pool A: England 3 Denmark 0; Scotland 3 France 0 Pool C: Ireland 3 Austria 0. Belgium 3 Wales 0 Semi-finals: England 3 Holland 0 (England names first: L S Wright bt H van Hoorn 9-5, 9-2, 9-4; L Charman bt N Beumer 9-4, 9-10, 9-2, 9-2; J Martin bt D Jelgersma 9-0, 9-1, 9-6): Germany 2 Scotland 1 (Germany names first S Schöne bt C Waddell 9-3, 9-3, 7-9, 9-2; S Baum lost to S Macfie 7-9, 2-9, 0-9; K Benere bt P Nimmo 10-8, 10-8, 7-9, 2-9, 9-3) Lower-place play-offs: Holland 2 Scotland 1 (Holland names first: V Atkinson bt C Waddell 9-5, 10-8, 9-4; H van Hoorn lost to S Macfie 8-10, 2-9, 1-9; N Beumer bt P Nimmo 2-9, 9-3, 9-1, 9-2). Belgium 2 Switzerland 1: Sweden 2 Denmark 1. Ireland 2 Italy 1 (Ireland names first: M Perry bt T Beresford 9-6, 9-10, 9-6, 9-5; L Finnegan bt C Ferrari 9-6, 9-2, 9-1. A McGeever lost to S Pastens 8-10, 5-9, 3-9): Wales 3 Hungary 0 (Wales names first: K Hogan bt T Buday 9-0, 9-6, 9-0; J Wells bt A Dvoky 9-0, 9-0, 9-2; L Griffiths bt N Pozsar 9-7, 9-8, 9-5): Norway 3 Hungary 0

TABLE TENNIS

MANCHESTER: World championship: Selected results: Men: Category one: Group A: Croatia 3 Italy 1, China 3 Slovenia 1. Yugoslavia 3 Taiwan 2, China 3 Italy 0. Yugoslavia 3 Slovenia 1; Croatia 3 Taiwan 2 Group B: Sweden 3 Austria 0, Belgium 3 Slovakia 0, Belarus 3 Romania 2 Group C: South Korea 3 Denmark 1: Holland 3 Poland 2. Germany 3 Hong Kong 0 Group D: England 3 Czech Republic 1: Russia 3 Japan 1, France 3 Hungary 0 Category two: Group G: Ireland 3 Iceland 1, Ireland 3 Sudan 0. Group K: Portugal 3 Guernsey 0. Norway 3 Guernsey 0 Group L: Scotland 3 Tahiti 0, Greece 3 Scotland 0. Scotland wo Zaire Group P: Wales 3 Bermuda 0. Wales 3 Uruguay 1 Group Q: Canada 3 Isle of Man 0; Jordan 3 Isle of Man 0. Switzerland 3 Isle of Man 0 Group R: New Zealand 3 Jersey 0; Jersey wo Iraq. Women: Category one: Group A: Japan 3 Canada 0. Russia 3 Belgium 0 China 3 Australia 0 Hong Kong 3 Taiwan 1: Japan 3 Australia 0. Canada 3 Belgium 1, China 3 Russia 0; China 3 Canada 0. Russia 3 Australia 0; Japan 3 Belgium 0 Group B: Lithuania 3 England 1, South Korea 3 England 0. Hungary 3 Armenia 0. Ukraine 3 Lithuania 1; England 3 Armenia 0: South Korea 3 Ukraine 0; Hungary 3 Lithuania 0 Group C: Hong Kong 3 United States 0, Germany 3 United States 0: North Korea 3 Italy 0; Hong Kong 3 Italy 0, Taiwan 3 United States 0. Germany 3 North Korea 2 Group D: Romania 3 Holland 2; Bulgaria 3 Sweden 0; France 3 Slovakia 1; Romania 3 Slovakia 0; Holland 3 Bulgaria 1: Sweden 3 France 0 Category two: Group E: Mexico 3 Ireland 2; Israel 3 Ireland 0; Argentina 3 Ireland 1 Group H: Croatia 3 Scotland 0 Group K: Wales wo Albania: Wales 3 New Zealand 1 Group P: Indonesia 3 Guernsey 0. Portugal 3 Guernsey 0; Iceland 3 Guernsey 0 Group S: Denmark 3 Isle of Man 0: Vietnam 3 Isle of Man 0; Isle of Man wo Nepal

TENNIS

MONACO: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: A Corretja (Sp) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-2, 6-0. F Santoro (Fr) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-3, 7-5. C Moyà (Sp) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 1-6, 6-2, 6-4. M Rios (Chile) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-1

ORLANDO, Florida: Men's tournament: Second round: A O'Brien (US) bt K Carlsen (Den) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; C Woodruff (US) bt O Gross (Ger) 7-5, 7-6, G Stafford (SA) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-2, 6-3; F Meligeni (Br) bt M Rodriguez (Arg) 6-4, 6-3; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt M Norman (Swe) 7-6, 6-4, M Filippini (Uru) bt P Korda (Cz) 6-3, 6-1. B Black (Zim) bt D van Scheppingen (Holl) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; M Chang (US) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 6-2, 6-7, 7-5.

BUDAPEST: Women's tournament: Second round: A Coetzer (SA) bt M Maruska (Austria) 6-0, 6-4; K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt P Begerow (Ger) 1-6, 6-2, 6-2; J Kruger (SA) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-3, 7-5; S Appelmans (Bel) bt N Dechy (Fr) 6-1, 6-2; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt G L Garcia (Sp) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 Quarter-finals: Coetzer bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-1, 6-7, 6-2, Habsudova bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-4, 6-4. Appelmans bt C T Valero (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; Nagyova bt Kruger 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

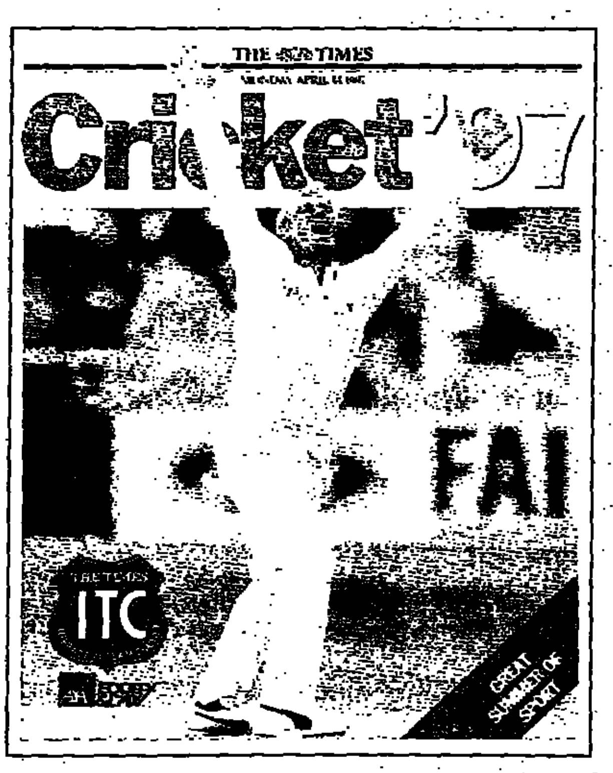
CRICKET
Reports and scores from the Britannic Assurance county championship
Call 0891 525 019

FOOTBALL
Reports and scores from the Nationwide League
Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 50p per minute

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Play Interactive Team Cricket for your chance to win £10,000



Full details of how to enter appear in the 16-page Cricket '97 supplement which was free with *The Times* on April 14. For a copy call 0171-481 3355.

ITC in association with Equity & Law

CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY UNION 48

Unsung heroes take credit in Wasps' championship push

SPORT

SNOOKER 51

O'Sullivan keeps on track with rich run of luck

SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

Memories of a great champion dominate build-up to San Marino Grand Prix

Imola still feels presence of Senna

Michael Calvin on a day when reflection superseded the drama of Formula One

THE flowers, extravagantly woven into the wire fencing by unseen supplicants to the legend of Ayrton Senna, had been removed. The gravel trap had been raked as lovingly as a bunker at the Open Championship. The two-tier tyre wall, daubed in fresh yellow paint, was pristine. Tamburello was open for business.

Three hours later, once the primal scream of the cars had subsided after the free practice session yesterday for the San Marino Grand Prix, a frantic public address announcer assaulted the senses with a hymn of praise to "*la fantastica Ferrari*". Eddie Irvine was on provisional pole, and Formula One was anxious to indulge in the process of renewal.

"One good race will convince no one that you are the reincarnation of Ayrton Senna," Irvine insisted to those who wished to invest long-term significance in his fractional advantage over Michael Schumacher, his Ferrari team-mate. Unwittingly, in attempting to rationalise the future, he had summoned the omnipresent ghost of the past.

The old Tamburello curve no longer has the feel of a shrine, though it is impossible to walk around it, through the leaf mould beneath tall larch trees, without being transported back, for an instant, to Sunday, May 1, 1994. Senna's death remains a seminal sporting event, even if three years seems long enough to mourn.

The unveiling of a statue in his honour yesterday afternoon, near the campsite on the outside of Tamburello, was billed as the final act of homage to his memory. Whether the drivers will be allowed to forget is an altogether different matter. Each is still answering familiar questions, dealing with recurrent emotions generated by the tragedy.

"Look, this isn't the type of thing a driver thinks about when he's getting on with the job," protested Jacques Villeneuve, the championship leader, who was fifth fastest, behind both Benettons. "I don't drive around here thinking 'Ayrton was killed here'. As a racer you know the risk you take, and go along with it."

Yet Heinz-Harald Frentzen, his Williams team-mate, begged to differ. He was seventh quickest, and in notably reflective mood. "I have so many mixed emotions," he said. "For me, Imola has always been a target. This is where I need to be competitive. But I can also not forget what happened here.

"I have many memories of '94, deep inside of me. I followed Ayrton as a young driver. I tried to understand his philosophies, tried to study his way of driving. He had a great respect for big accidents, a great respect for death, and yet he was taken away. Here. On this racetrack . . ."

The imagination is the only real threat at Tamburello these days. The changes to the circuit, implemented in the aftermath of Senna's loss, have stolen its soul, stripped it of its pivotal challenge. Imola is now like Augusta without Amen Corner, like Lord's without the slope, like Hampden without the roar.

Once away from the main straight, the drivers accelerate to 185mph, in seventh gear, before braking sharply to set the car up for the new Tamburello chicane. The G forces involved in decelerating to 70mph make a man weigh more than three times his body weight, but that is a routine impediment.

The mind can be more fragile than the body in such circumstances. Rubens Barrichello, again impressive in claiming eighth on the provisional grid in his Stewart-Ford, took a year to recover, psychologically, from the weekend Senna lost his life. His own massive accident in practice, where his airborne Jordan clipped the top of the armco barrier in the Traguardo complex before the straight, was, strangely, almost an irrelevance.

Eddie Jordan, his former employer, remembers: "Rubens was very young and quite able to come to terms with his own accident, but he was much more affected by what happened to Senna, his idol, his mentor. I think Senna's death stayed on his mind for the rest of the season. Some drivers never recover from that type of trauma."

Gerhard Berger, given every opportunity to play the elder statesman in this, his 200th grand prix, feels drawn to Imola by an instinctive sense of destiny. He has been enraptured by the atmosphere since the days when, as a penurious young sportscar driver, he would stand on a box and peer over the wall at the Tosa corner to get a glimpse of the blood-red Ferraris, circulating to near hysterical acclaim.

"I cannot believe I'm in this position," he said with a wistful smile, after recording the third-fastest time despite the debilitating effects of a viral illness. "I just don't feel as if I have done that many grands prix. It is so strange that it should happen at Imola. So much has happened to me here."

He had no need to mention that he could so easily have preceded Senna as a grim statistic. The tone of his voice was enough to revive memories of 1989, when his Ferrari exploded in flames when it hit the wall at Tamburello. He was only saved by the bravery of marshals who pulled him free, and yet, within a month, he was racing again, his badly burned hands inadequately protected by bandages.

"Sometimes a driver needs to have a big accident, one he cannot forget, to put things into perspective," he reflected. "Before Imola, I did what I thought was needed. I didn't care about the consequences. Not today. What happened to me then changed me, for ever."

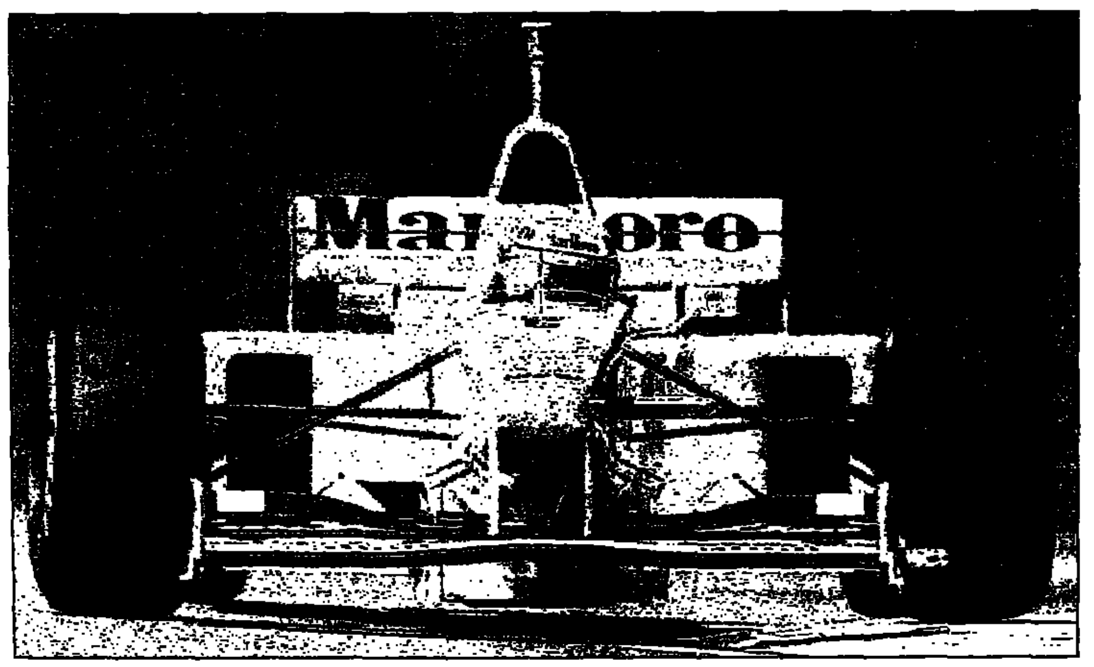
Yet Berger will push himself to the limit today, in the qualifying scramble that defines so many races. Tamburello will be a blur, a brief blip in the engine note on the way to a fast lap. Ayrton Senna, wherever he is, can rest in peace.

DETAILS FROM IMOLA

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, E Irvine (Ire, Ferrari) 1min 25.981sec; 2, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:25.997; 3, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 1:26.259; 4, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 1:26.382; 5, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:26.499; 6, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:26.549; 7, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1:26.600; 8, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:26.679; 9, O Panis (Fr, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:26.779; 10, N Larini (It, Sauber Petronas) 1:26.831; 11, J Herbert (GB, Sauber Petronas) 1:26.842; 12, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:27.184; 13, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:27.334, 14, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:27.612; 15, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:28.091; 16, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1:28.177, 17, S Nakano (Japan, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:29.021; 18, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:29.087; 19, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:29.117; 20, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:29.738; 21, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:29.974; 22, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) 1:30.820.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers': 1, Villeneuve 20pts; 2 equal, Coulthard and Berger 10; 4, Hakkinen 9; 5, M Schumacher 8; 6 equal, Panis and Irvine 6; 8, R Schumacher 4; 9, Herbert 3; 10 equal, Larini and Alesi 1. Constructors': 1, Williams 20; 2, McLaren-Mercedes 19; 3, Ferrari 14; 4, Benetton-Renault 11; 5, Prost 6; 6 equal, Sauber-Petronas and Jordan 4

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: San Marino (Imola). May 11: Monaco (Monte Carlo). May 25: Spanish (Barcelona). June 15: Canadian (Montreal). June 29: French (Magny-Cours) July 13: British (Silverstone). July 27: German (Hockenheim) Aug 10: Hungarian (Hungaroring). Aug 24: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). Sept 7: Italian (Monza) Sept 21: Austrian (A-1 Ring). Sept 28: Luxembourg (Nürburgring). Oct 12: Japanese (Suzuka). Oct 26: Portuguese (Estoril).



Irvine brings encouragement to Ferrari in recording the fastest practice time at Imola

Frank Williams, the team owner, sits beneath the statue of Senna that was unveiled yesterday

---

Floodlit cricket circus booked in for Hove

Alan Lee says lighting-up time will take on a new meaning when Sussex flaunt tradition

They have retained their faith against all manner of setbacks, but cricket's army of reactionaries may never recover from the latest blow to their heritage. Hove, where the deckchair population ensures the gentility of a bygone age, is to stage a match under floodlights this summer, complete with the paraphernalia of rock music and audience involvement so detested by traditionalists.

Sussex, determinedly looking forward after a winter revolution ousted a committee condemned as crusty and ineffectual, are to demonstrate their thinking by playing their Axa Life League match against Essex on a Monday evening in June.

This is the third Sunday League game to be switched to a weekday evening this season, but the other experiments are planned for the metropolitan Test venues of the Oval and Edgbaston. It is something else entirely to bring in portable floodlights and heavy duty music amid the largely pensionable patrons of the quaint old ground that slopes down towards the sea.

Sussex's proposal is now before the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), who approve, and Essex, who do not object, and the fixture is set for a 5pm start on June 16. What is more, the club claims that the majority of their members heartily applaud the initiative. Tony Pigott, dramatically installed as chief executive after the mass resignations last month, said: "We have been going round the deckchairs, consulting our members, and most of them are happy with our efforts at change."

Pigott was meeting yesterday with the suppliers of floodlights, well aware that the cost of temporary installation could be as high as £30,000 but confident that the venture would gain sponsorship.

"We'll have music, entertainment, the lot," he said. "It's an ideal time to try it out, in midsummer, and Essex are the perfect opposition because they will bring some support. Not everyone will like it, of course, but you cannot succeed by standing still in sport these days."

Pigott's views are supported at Lord's, from where Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the ECB, confirmed that a keen interest was being taken in developments at Hove. "We have got to put on cricket matches when people can watch them and Sussex, like Surrey and Warwickshire, are simply trying something new," he said.

Lamb explained that three criteria were applied to the floodlit proposals. No game could be staged between days of a championship fixture; the visiting team must consent to the switch and be allowed the opportunity to practise under the lights; and all such games must be staged on traditional cricket grounds rather than their football or rugby counterparts.

"We are all aware that the English climate has never been thought conducive to night cricket," he said. "The experiments may fail, but it is certainly worth trying because, properly presented, the floodlit game is very attractive to the young audience we are trying to cultivate."

Whether that young audience exists in Hove has yet to be proved.

County reports, page 50

Hoddle warns Gascoigne that time is running out

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

THE spectre of Paul Gascoigne hovered over the England squad again yesterday as they converged on Bisham Abbey to begin their preparations for the crucial World Cup qualifying tie against Georgia at Wembley on Wednesday. The troubled midfield player's witching hour, his thirtieth birthday, is fast approaching and Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, made it plain that he must stop abusing his talent if he wants to regain his international place.

Gascoigne, who was criticised by his manager at Rangers, Walter Smith, for embarrassing the club with his exuberant antics in the midst of what was reportedly a prolonged London drinking session recently, is still recovering from an ankle injury sustained in a six-a-side tournament and was not considered for the squad to face the Georgians.

Hoddle said that he was still desperately hoping Gascoigne would recover his form and his fitness and return to the level he was playing at in the 1990 World Cup. But he dropped broad hints that England's three-game summer tour to France in June would probably be his last chance.

"There are certain things, perhaps, that he needs to change in his life," Hoddle said. "He always seems to have had an injury that has dragged him back down again. There are things that he used to get away with when he was 21 that you can't do at 30. He has got to change them. At 30, there are a lot of things that have happened to him and he needs to learn from them.

"I can't answer whether he will play for England again. There are players now who are still playing at 30 and playing well. Baresi was one. If you keep control of yourself, I think there is a future there and Paul is no different if he can change what he is doing. He has to adjust physically after his injuries, too.

"The French tournament could not be coming at a better time for Paul Gascoigne. There are certain things he needs to change in his life. There will come a time soon when a decision has to be made about his international future. We are almost there. We are in the mid-area at the moment.

"I have given him a chance. I am not bending over backwards for him but he needs to have a little bit of a change if he is to keep playing. He is an excellent footballer and he has got an immense talent. I have not been in the job a year yet and there is still time for me to talk to him and his club to talk to him and for him to get back to his very best."

Amid the agonising over Gascoigne, Hoddle was at least able to report that none of his squad members who have been involved in midweek games have contracted an injury serious enough to make them a doubt for the Georgia game.

Tony Adams will play on Wednesday, though he may miss the trip to France in the summer to allow a long-term ankle problem to clear up. "The group is so tight," Hoddle said, "but it is a game we have to win. Wembley will probably suit them better than their home pitch. We will have to be vigilant."

Valiant effort 49
Ginola can go 49
Basement blues 49

Ian Wright is stretched during training at Bisham Abbey yesterday

From £39

Dusseldorf MONCHENGLADBACH from £39
Munich from £39
Copenhagen from £39
Barcelona from £39
Madrid from £39
Rome from £49

HURRY OFFER CLOSES IN 5 DAYS!

Midweek Offer only valid on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Bookings must be made by 30th April 1997. Travel must be completed by 12th June 1997.
BUT HURRY! There is limited availability.
For details of this offer or our other daily scheduled flights from London Luton:

Call 0541 500 300

Debonair Eurostyle Vacations to Rome brochure now available. Call 01293 886006

debonair

Fares shown are one way, exclusive of tax. Subject to availability

ATOL 4354

هكذا من الاعلى

150 tickets to be won for Chelsea's big show

gardening · 5

THE TIMES
# weekend
SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

Low point for the women high flyers

Ginny Dougary · 11

Hordes of London arts and media types will soon be weekending together in the country, **Jane McCarthy** reports

MITCH JENKINS

Nick Jones, owner of Soho House, a London club for the "new generation of contemporary professionals", outside Babington House: he talks dreamily about plans for lakeside cocktails, poolside barbecues and dinners on the terrace

Have we got news for you

As a chill April wind blew across the Somerset landscape, the visitors from London turned their collars up, anxious to confound any notion that they might be soft. Richard Knatchbull, the landowner, stood untroubled either by the temperature or by this bunch of newcomers from metropolitan clubland, who were here to discuss the cricket field needed for their new club in the country.

The shivering Londoners included Nick Jones, who owns Soho House, a private London club for a "new generation of contemporary professionals". His mission: to transform nearby Babington House, five miles from Frome, into a country retreat for his members.

This field, a hundred miles from Soho, is a far cry from the club's rambling Georgian building in Greek Street, where the bright young things from the world of media and arts and New Labour congregate. A succession of small cosy rooms at "The House" ensures privacy from swivelling heads syndrome. Tony Blair's office chose it as the venue for a quiet Christmas meal, and friendly relations with the party are assured because Gordon Brown's close friend Sarah Macaulay heads the PR company representing Soho House.

But down in Somerset, Mr Jones's negotiations over the cricket field were running into problems. Neither party professed to know much about the game: how much land would they need? Might they need a scorer? And, asked by Mr Knatchbull's son about nets, one of the Soho House contingent replied that, well yes, they would be essential to stop the ball going too far over the boundary.

When it came to knowledge of the land, the confusion was one-sided. Surveying the field in question, one of Mr Jones's party remarked that at least it was only grazing land. The wind stirred the level rows of green oat shoots.

Yes, the Londoners had initially been regarded with suspicion, Mr Jones told me later, but relations between the two sides had thawed in the months since his initial approach. We were standing on the magnificent drive that sweeps under its avenue of trees towards Babington House, which for generations had been owned by Richard Knatchbull's family. Now Mr Knatchbull, owner of large areas of nearby land, will watch with a neighbourly interest to see what the metropolitan types will do with his ancestral home.

At a cost of £4.5 million, Mr Jones is aiming to provide his members with a country retreat on a 17-acre estate comprising several small lakes, extensive gardens and woodland, a coach house, lodge, and rococo Georgian chapel. Contracts have been exchanged and work is due to start on October 1 to create 30 bedrooms, restaurants, bars, a sports complex including a 25-metre pool, gym, tennis and squash courts, croquet lawn, plus a cinema and editing suite.

Explaining his plans, Mr Jones says: "There will be nothing pretentious about it; our members don't want frills. But they do want a place in which they can relax and feel comfortable." The venue may be a far cry from the grime of Soho's streets, but the ethos of the club remains: good service in intimate surroundings with the guarantee of discreet staff and the company of like-minded people.

In his decision to introduce Soho clubgoers to fresh air and clean living, Mr Jones is not alone. His near neighbours in London, the more famous, and senior, Groucho Club is planning a similar move. Last week a meeting of Groucho representatives discussed buying a country retreat in Wiltshire.

The Groucho, a notorious bolthole for media movers and showbiz shakers opened in Dean Street, Soho, 12 years ago, plays down the highly publicised antics of Liam Gallagher and others, insisting that its staff learn not to be impressed, whether they are serving Chris Evans, Mick Jagger, Stephen Fry or Lenny Henry. Mary-Lou Sturridge, the general manager, says: "Most people don't want fawning service. For those who do, Groucho is the wrong place." Like Soho House, it offers various bars, restaurants, club rooms and function rooms — the scene of many a glittery gathering, whose hosts have included Madonna, Eric Clapton, Bill Wyman and Bob Geldof.

In January the club canvassed its members about a country club, which it had discovered at a remote spot near Tisbury. Described as a "solidly built 1930s sports club surrounded by the idyllic woods and valleys of Wardour Castle," members were promised tennis, swimming, croquet, cricket and "abundant walking, fishing and shooting country". Probably more to their tastes is the offer of "a cosy sitting room, reading room, games room and a warm dining room/bar serving wholesome, unfussy food".

Both clubs intend to provide an alternative to weekending in a cottage or in what they see as overpriced country house hotels, where the rules outnumber the guests and where what you wear is more important than who you are. Ms Sturridge and Mr Jones talk dreamily of open log fires and wooden floors.

The Groucho aims to return its rather unprepossessing pavilion, called the Pythouse Club, to its former colonial splendour, with verandas, french windows, shutters, weather-boarding and a copper roof intended, like its members, to go green with age. Babington House is altogether grander, with ornamental fireplaces, elaborate plaster-work, wooden panelling, grand oak staircase and walls lined with Gainsboroughs.

Despite the plans for a cricket field, Mr Jones doubts the sporting intentions of his members, dwelling instead on the attractions of lakeside cocktails, poolside barbecues and dinners on the terrace.

It's a vision which, voiced as it is in tones of boyish wonder, could suggest a lack of realism. But with the success of Soho House in the past two years behind him, Mr Jones has a credibility belied by his artless manner. Membership for his club, which costs £300 a year, stands at 1,500 and is closed. Funds for his new venture will in part come from share options, the launch party for which will be on board a luxury yacht at the Cannes Film Festival next month.

As we pace his estate the enthusiasm mounts and, like a small child let loose in Hamleys, he indicates various aspects of Babington and outlines his plans.

At the derelict farm buildings, he announces: "This is the unique health club"; inside the woodstore ... "this is the 25-metre pool, half open-air and half under cover"; peering into the old milking parlour ... "ah, the gym"; gesturing towards the ice-house ... "we want to put a hot tub in there"; and over by the largest lake ... "I'd like to put trout back in. There's not enough air I think, but I don't know much about that."

It is such a lack of knowledge that raises the alarm with the owners.

Continued on page 2

[illegible]PING ......2,3 | GARDENING ....4,5 | COUNTRY LIFE .... 6 | PROPERTY ....7,8 | FEATURES ....10 | HOME LIFE .... 11 | TRAVEL ....15-21 | GAMES 25

With Citibank your nearest branch is your PC.

Call us anytime on 0800 00 88 00 or visit our website http://www.citibank.co.uk
With Citibank's PC Banking you can review, manage and record your finances 365 days a year.
Ref No [illegible] Citibank International plc. Registered office: 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB. ® Registered mark of Citibank, N.A. Ultimately owned by Citicorp, New York, USA.

CITIBANK
THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS.

SERIOUS SHOPPING SHOPLIFTING

ROBERT CRAMPTON

I once witnessed the most astonishing act of shoplifting: so astonishing, in fact, that I believe it changed — in a small way — the course of shopping history. I have not breathed a word of this story for almost 19 years.

It was the summer of 1978 and I was coming up 14. In the old village around which my suburb had grown, there were two sweetshops. One was run by an upstanding man called Mr Davis. He wore a brown coat like Ronnie Barker in *Open All Hours*. He was not stupid: his counter was covered by a plastic shield thick enough to stop bullets, let alone the grubby hands of thieving teenagers. We called him Mister.

The other shop was run by Harry Hedon. We called him Spaz. Harry's shop was in an ancient, tiny, low-ceilinged cottage. It was divided in two: the papers and sweets to the left of the entrance, the groceries to the right, a small hallway in between. The assistant in one half could not see the goings-on in the other.

In the summer of 1978, presumably because he was a struggling small businessman trying to keep costs down, Harry made the catastrophic mistake of employing only one assistant in his fatally bisected shop. Harry did not appear there himself until early afternoon — he was an unshaven, disorganised man — so each morning his elderly, naive female assistant became a sitting target.

One day I was sitting on the bench outside the churchyard where I used to spend a regrettably large amount of my summer holidays. Two older boys approached. They were the sort of boys who confound the liberal emphasis on the importance of social conditions in the formation of character. Both lived in huge houses set in leafy grounds, indeed the father of one of them was a millionaire, yet both were about as bad as bad could be in suburban 1978. The millionaire's son used to suck cola ice pops and then spit the brown gunge over his dog's head. The dog was a pure-bred Samoyed, so it showed. That was the kind of person he was.

The other boy had a brother, also bad. That brother now appeared in the distance, standing next to the public telephone box at the bottom of the road. He waved to the first two boys and went into the phone box. I chose that moment to go into Harry's shop to replenish my supplies of Curly Wurlys. Turning left into the sweets' section, hearing the assistant go to answer the telephone (Harry had put his phone in the storeroom behind the grocery section of his doomed shop), I waited to be served.

"I don't think we can supply 144 Scotch eggs at such short notice, Mr Smith," the assistant was saying in a harassed voice. "Yes, we can do the sausage rolls, but I think you should let the vicar know that he may have to look elsewhere for the catering packs of bread buns." Someone was obviously negotiating a complicated order. I was contemplating coming back later, when the two older boys walked purposefully into the shop. Their faces were set grim. One was carrying a haversack.

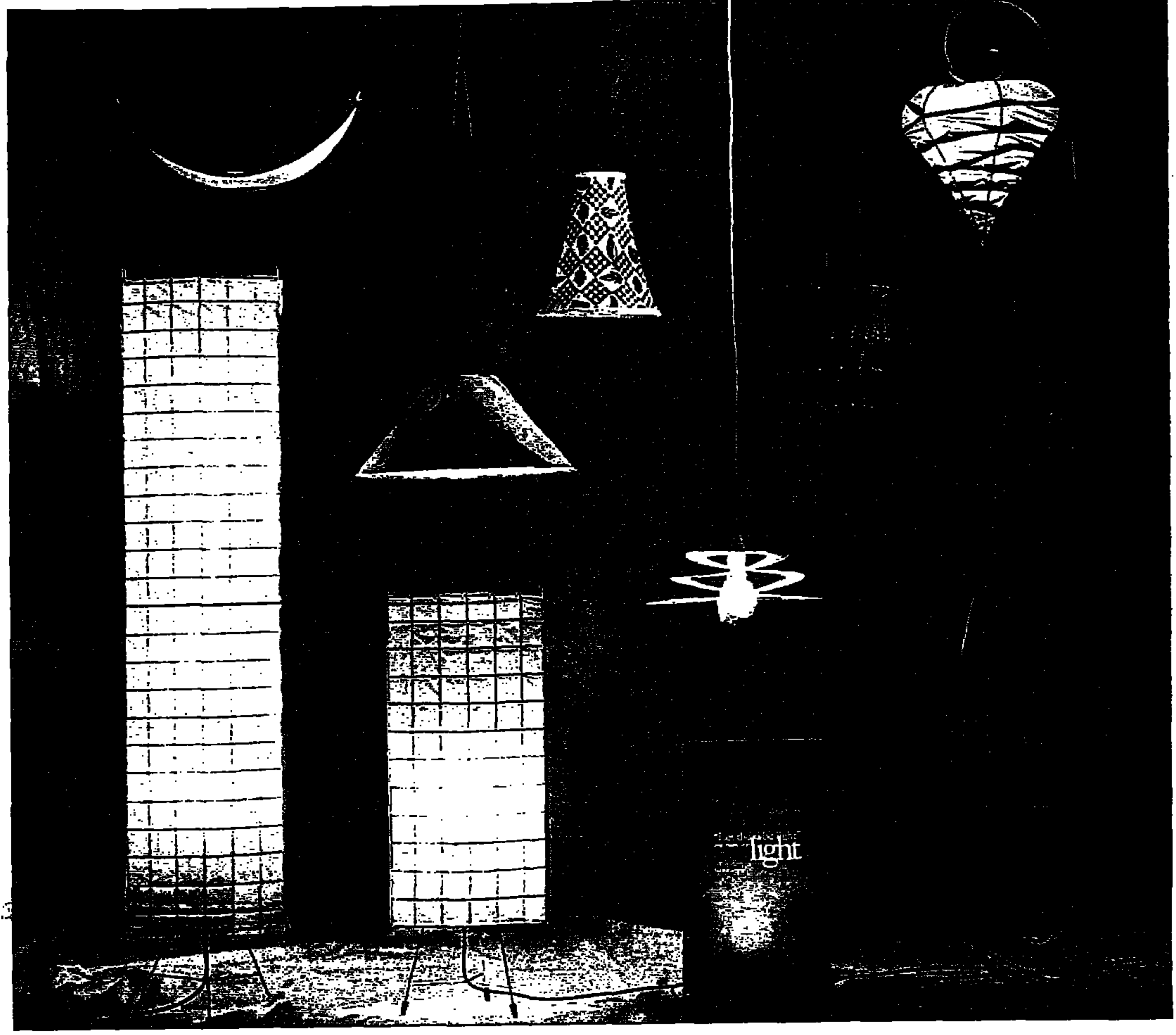
They weighed me up and obviously decided, correctly, that I presented no threat. They both walked around the back of the counter, in itself a shocking act. One put his forearm at the end of a shelf of cigarettes, and began to scoop packets of Players No 6 into his haversack. The other — the one who spat on his dog — rang open the till. I was amazed. He took about £25, and then moved round to the legal side of the counter.

Very carefully — this has always stuck in my mind — he selected two packets of Callard and Bowser butterscotch and put them in the haversack on top of what must have been about 60 packets of cigarettes. Then they left. They had been in the shop about 30 seconds. The assistant was still on the telephone — they were on to possible desserts by now — so, very quietly, I left, too, having decided I could make do without any more Curly Wurlys that morning. Two days later, Harry put up a sign. It said: "Only two schoolchildren at one time." The words stable, door and horse come to mind, and so it proved for poor Harry.

Those signs are everywhere now, but that was the first one I ever saw. I do believe they were invented by Harry Hedon, failed confectioner and grocer, and that thus I witnessed — and, through my 19-year silence, participated in — a small but significant sociological event.

Light and shades

Plain lampshades are looking distinctly passé among the new generation of bold designs in adventurous materials. Bare lightbulbs can now be designer dressed in steel creations, sculpted plastic, exotic silks and even zip-on spinnaker fabric. Sophie Chamier sheds light on some of the classiest styles around



From left to right, standing:

Two Zipcode shades by Totem Design, from £45 each. The powder-coated wire frames are covered with brightly coloured zip-on jackets of spinnaker material.
Jackets are available separately in red, yellow, white, blue and green (0171-727 3280/0171-243 0692)

Light-in-a-bag Image Lights (complete with *all electrical parts*), *from* £19.95.
Interchangeable shades, £4.99 each, in 20 different designs ranging from literary quotations to ancient art, from Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-636 1666) and branches; The Gadget Shop, 16 branches nationwide (01482 860860); further stockists (01398 324224)

Zanzibar silk shades in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours, from £35; Casbah lamp stand £99, from Mr Light, 279 King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 8398) and 275 Fulham *Road, SW10 (0171-352 7525)*

From left to right, hanging:

Taco polypropylene shade, £20, by Vyvyan Rose in red, yellow, blue, green or off-white, from Purves & Purves, 83 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-580 8223) and by mail order from Ocean (0800 132985)

Hand-made paper shades by Andrea Maflin with 22ct gold leaf. Orange Squirl, £45 plus £5 p&p (mail order 0171-284 1224)

Fruit and Veg cone shade, £45 (p&p extra), from Chandeliers for the People (mail order 0171-376 4992)

Chris Laughton's spiral-effect shade in aircraft quality plywood, £25 (p&p £1.50), from Elemental (0171-602 3752 for mail order and stockists)

Ribbon chandelier shade in ivory, burgundy, coral or Prussian blue, £35-£39 depending on size, from selected branches of Allders *nationwide* (0181-256 7730)

Photograph by **Des Jenson.** Styling by **Caroline Griffiths**

'If that Chris Evans comes in here ...'

Continued from page 1

who still view the young pretender to the throne with some wariness. When Mr Jones and Co arrived with a film crew to make a promotional video, and landed the chopper in what you might call the front garden, relations were somewhat strained. Now all is good-tempered, but Mr Jones knows not to assume too propretorial an air. He rings the doorbell to gain admission to the house which, although his in name, will not be vacated until September.

London haven: the drawing room at the Soho House club

The lady of the house overhears his comments about moving the kitchen and asks cautiously about the Aga. "I would hate it to end up on a skip." "Oh, no," Mr Jones reassures her, "we've got one of those at home." Her husband is anxious to ensure the future of his notable crop of snowdrops and daffodils, and is at pains to point out the hard realities of maintaining such a large estate.

Wayne, the gardener and handyman, confirms that his employer is a stickler for detail but an old-fashioned gent that he respects. The new regime is a source of some concern: "I don't object to change but this place is unique in its completely natural feel — it's not too manicured, like some places. Are they really in love with it like I am, or are they just expanding the business?"

At Pythouse Club, there are no proprietors to raise objections to Groucho's venture. Rather it was they who approached the London club in a final attempt to salvage a decaying monument to a colourful local history. Sir Henry Rumbold, who lives at nearby Hatch and owns the estate, is negotiating the sale of the lease after a series of unsuccessful ventures at the club.

Those who are old enough recall the Pythouse Club's heyday as the meeting place for local high society after the Second World War: there were whist drives and fêtes, pony club camps, treasure hunts, swimming galas, tennis tournaments and mixed hockey. All this plus four dances a year for £6 a year. The vetting of members was not unlike Soho House and Groucho's: two sponsors and your face, or family name, had to fit.

Mrs Phelps, cook and caterer there from 1955, remembers some serious tennis followed by a mass gathering of nannies and babies for tea at 4 o'clock on the veranda. "Tea cost 1s. 6d. for two sandwiches, a scone and jam and two pieces of cake. When it went up to half a crown they brought their own. They were a mean and rotten lot but we had some wonderful times in the summer season."

What are the locals to make of the newcomers? Some confusion surrounds the identity of the Groucho. Opinion divides between Soho strip joint and society for elderly poets. Talk at the local pub focuses on the desire for a quiet life. "If that Chris Evans comes in here and causes trouble he won't last five minutes," said one. Another, propping up the bar, said: "I come in here and enjoy a quiet drink in lovely countryside. That's why I live here. I don't want bloody Londoners discovering it. This is a pub without juke boxes or fights; that's how I like it."

The main topic is the need for someone to save Pythouse Club and settle the uncertain future of the Pythouse Players cricket team. Ms Sturridge can allay fears on that score, because local involvement is needed to ensure the viability of the whole venture. About 100 local memberships will be offered, local produce and staff sought, the swimming pool will be available for use by the village school and the cricket pitch similarly on offer.

Should Groucho's encounter any opposition it is more likely to come from the spirit world, says Paul, the caretaker, who has experienced strange visions in his bedroom, shadowy figures at his side and the tramping of marching feet, horses and carts. But he is confident that the future looks bright: "The energy is gathering here to take us forward. This is the time of truth. It all makes sense — the drought, Hale-Bopp, the Groucho Club . . ."

What doesn't entirely make sense to some observers is what the London folk will find to do in the wilds of Wiltshire and Somerset. A glance at the noticeboard in Semley village stores and post office down the road from Pythouse reveals little other than a Bison and Bluebell Browse and a basket-making workshop. But Ms Sturridge confides: "The girls will find the car-boot sales and antique shops while the boys pretend to play sport." Lord Talbot, a landowner, says: "If I were to come down to the country I should want to go hunting and shooting. I don't know if they're up to that."

Martin Clunes, a potential man behaving badly at Babington, agrees it would be a disaster: "Let's hope they sort out the gun laws. Media folk with firearms . . . oh, God."

The peace and quiet, he feels, will draw many members away from London, but what kind of a reception can they expect from the inhabitants of nearby Mells, a tranquil village clustered around the Earl of Asquith and Oxford's manor and a 15th-century coaching inn?

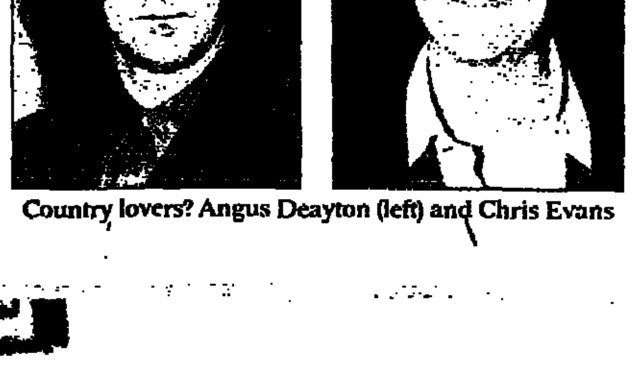
Some diehards have already expressed opposition to any appearance of London sophisticates, but the inn's landlord, Roger Elliott, himself confident of attracting many new visitors to his Egon Ronay-recommended restaurant, is sure that Soho House can weather the local storm.

Less certain is how quickly Soho clubbers can pass themselves off as seasoned country folk. Back at Babington, one of Mr Jones's advisers shows off his knowledge of the flora and fauna: "That's a primrose. Those are nettles which can give you a very nasty sting if you touch them. Then you have to go and find a bayleaf."

Angus Deayton, a member of both Soho clubs, sees his weekends taking a new turn: "We'll need wall charts and organised nature trails so we can identify what we're looking at. They both seem like places I'd like to try out, although it seems ironic to go to the country to get away from it all only to surround yourself with the people you see all week."

But what about the local members with whom he could fraternise? "What would we talk about — vegetables, children, the weather?"

However incompatible the town mouse and the country mouse prove to be, Soho members have given their clubs' move to the country an enthusiastic response. Deayton speaks for many when he says: "I regard the country as something nice to look at, to stroke and pet for a while before returning to London and reality."



Country lovers? Angus Deayton (left) and Chris Evans

IS YOUR HAIR THINNER THAN IT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO?

In a recent survey of 500 women, a staggering 33% reported hair loss.

One of the reasons for hair loss in women is nutritional.
10 years's research has now produced an effective supplement: it's called NutriHair®

In a recent survey 33% of women stated they had experienced hair loss in recent years, and that this caused them distress and anxiety. It is perfectly natural to lose some hair every day. But if you feel your hair loss is increasing or you have less hair than you used to, then NutriHair® could be of real help.

"I have about a third less hair than I used to have. Nobody believes I have a problem because I still have a lot of hair but I know its has changed and I am very worried".

NutriHair® could be for you if you can answer yes to any of these questions

1. Do you have less hair than you used to?
2. Does more hair fall out when you shampoo, brush or comb your hair?
3. Is there less hair in your ponytail or the amount you can clip back?

The facts about hair growth

Hair growth is cyclical. Each hair grows for up to 3 years and is then shed. Its follicle rests for about 12 weeks and then starts growing a new hair. It is normal to lose between 50-150 hairs per day.

But, if the three year growth stage shortens, even just a little, there will be an increase in hair shedding. If this continues for several months the amount of hair will become noticeably less.

This increases hair shedding by affecting the hair growth cycle. NutriHair® has been developed by one of Britain's leading hair specialists and is based on 10 years careful analysis involving hundreds of women. The studies show that the unique combination of ingredients in NutriHair® could make a real difference to the amount of hair you grow.

The warning signs: more hair in the brush, less hair in the ponytail

If you are losing more hair than you once were it is usually obvious when washing, brushing or styling your hair.

Causes of increased hair loss

There are several possible causes but if you answered yes to one or more of the questions above, then the cause may be a nutritional imbalance.

In trial conditions women using NutriHair® noticed some reduction in hair loss three to four months after starting the supplement. It can take up to 6 months to see the full benefit.

Your first month's supply is free

For the quickest results three tablets should be taken daily for the first three months. After that, just one tablet daily should help maintain maximum hair volume. The special introductory offer price of £29.90 - three packs for the price of two - gives you enough NutriHair® for three months. Then one pack at £14.95 will last you three months.

Your money-back guarantee

NutriHair® is a highly reputable product only available from Nature's Best. Should you complete the 3 month course and notice no benefit we will refund your money in full. However, it is stressed that the full benefits of NutriHair® are only seen at 6 months. No other company offers you such a guarantee for a hair product. It is based on the confidence we have in NutriHair®.

Any questions?

Our Nutrition Advisors will be happy to answer any questions you may have about NutriHair®. Please call 01892 552175 between 9am - 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

☎ 01892 552141
MASTERCARD, VISA, SWITCH AND DELTA CARD HOLDERS
8.30am - 6.00pm Mon - Fri and 8.30am - 12 noon Sat.

NATURE'S BEST®
The UK's largest mail order supplier of nutritional supplements
Nature's Best Health Products Ltd.,
1 Lambert's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3EQ
Registered in England No. 1518391.

To: Nature's Best, Freepost, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3BR. (No stamp needed)
Please send me 3 month's supply of NutriHair® at the introductory price of £29.90.
I enclose a cheque/PO for £29.90 made payable to Nature's Best Health Products Ltd.
or please debit my Mastercard/Visa/Switch/Delta Card no.
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry Date ______/______ Switch/Delta Issue No. ______
Cardholder's Signature ______
Name Mr/Mrs/Ms ______
Address ______
______ Postcode ______
Registered in England No. 1518391 http://www.vendo.com/health/nutrihair.html TT18

هكذا من الاعلام

Stretch and tone

The broad range of today's stretch fabrics can give the illusion of an attractive figure-hugging look whatever your size, says **Heath Brown**

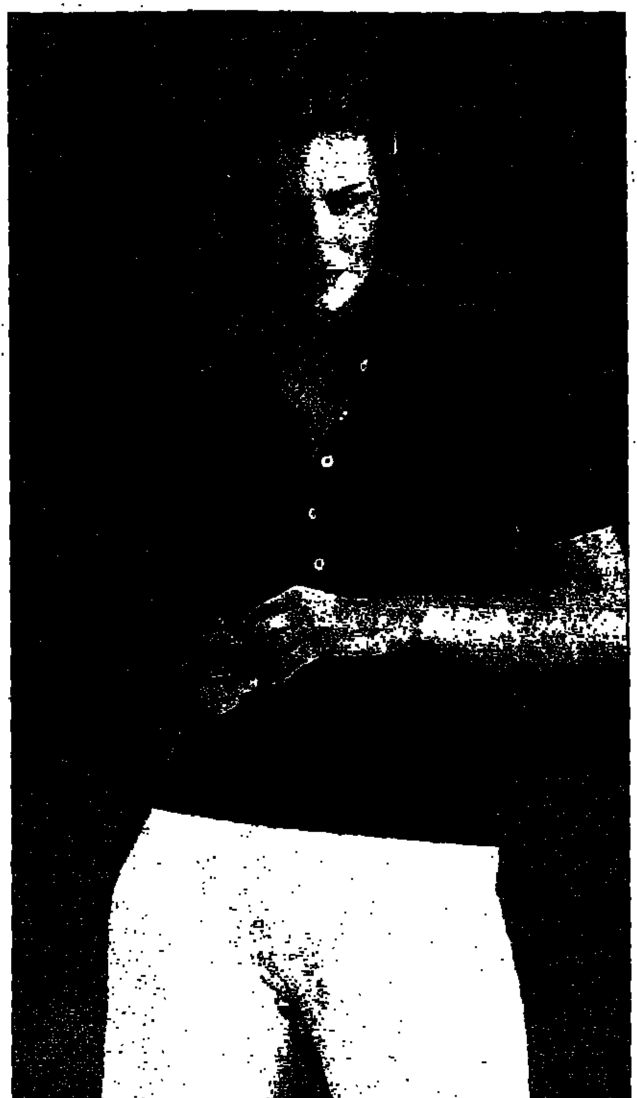
Fashion is stretched to its limits with the appetite for tight, expandable clothes. This figure-hugging style may seem daunting for those with a less than perfect shape, but stretch trousers, tops and skirts can be a good buy, whatever your size.

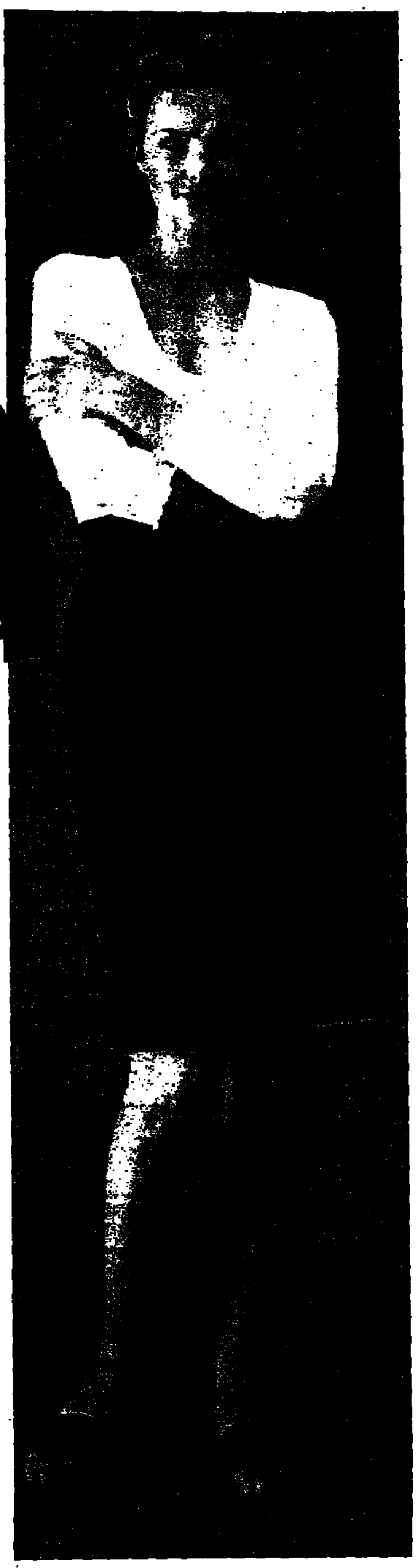
Cotton, wool or silk jersey are the perfect materials, but Dupont, which makes Lycra and Tactel, has produced good quality, versatile, synthetic stretch fabrics that are overtaking natural jersey.

The secret is to buy one size bigger than usual, making the item slightly loose but still giving the illusion that it is tight.

For example, a long-line stretch jersey tube dress will still cling to the upper and lower body but will hang a little loose elsewhere, giving less emphasis on a wider pelvis or larger bust.

Simple, tight tops and sweaters are made to go with stretch slacks, white expandable dresses are teamed with elastic banded shoes. If you are lucky enough to have a well-shaped body, crop tops and new-look leggings can look sporty and sexy. But skirts should not be too tight and, if choosing a dress, look out for the simple styles.





ABOVE CENTRE: *Blue jersey ecru-stripe halterneck dress*, £29.99, Pinstripe, C&A, branches nationwide (0171-580 3494). Blue fine-rib cardigan, £50, French Connection, branches nationwide (0171-580 2507). Black thong sandals, £29, Cable & Co, branches *nationwide* (0800 192192)

LEFT: detail of ABOVE CENTRE

ABOVE RIGHT: Cream slinky stretch top, £12.99, Knickerbox, branches nationwide (0171-284 1744). Black stretch-cotton skirt, £16.99, *River Island, branches nationwide* (0181-998 8822). Black leather open-toe mules, £29, Cable & Co, as above

TOP LEFT: Navy stretch top, £30, *French Connection*, branches nationwide (0171-580 2507). White jersey palazzo pants, £24.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-998 8822). *Brown nylon wooden wedge shoes*, £125, Armando Pollini, 35 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 7606)

MAIN PICTURE: Green/blue print soft stretch T-shirt, £100, Sahza, available at Selfridges (0171-629 5592). Navy stretch Capri pants, £24.99, River *Island, as above. Blue nylon thong sandals*, £95, Armando Pollini, as above

Photographs by **Richard Burns**. Hair and make-up by **Sarah Gottschalk**, using Glauca Rossi products (mail order, 0171-289 7485). *Styling by **Amandip Uppal***

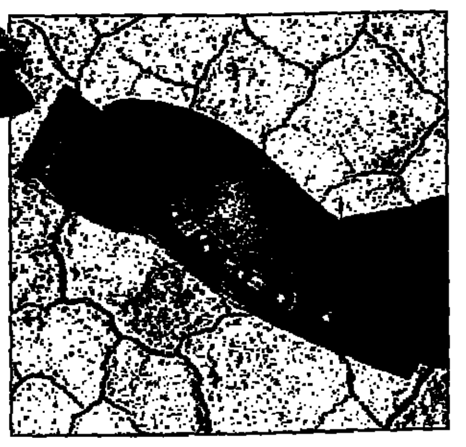
THREE OF A KIND

Wooden soled sandals, or woodies, are clogs with style. These three are the pick of a wide range available. H.B.

Right: Lime green exercise sandals; £24.99, Scholls, branches *nationwide* (01582 443300)

Centre: Black wooden wedge shoes, £24.99, Next/Next Directory (0345 100500)

Far right Suede thong wooden platform shoes, £89.50, Russell & Bromley, selected branches *(0171-629 6903)*



£10 BUYS A CHAIN CUTTER

He's chained up through his sensitive nose and made to walk on *red hot* plates, whilst the back of his legs are *hit* in time to music. Onlookers *taunt* him and force him to drink beer. *Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance'* for tourists who pay to watch his *agonising* waltz.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where *they can be free of pain and suffering*. But we can't carry out our *life-saving work* without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you can *afford, will help cut the chains of innocent animals.* So please send your donation today. He's counting on you.

YES, I WANT TO CUT THE CHAINS!

Please fill in the details below

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

____________________ Postcode __________

*Here is my donation of £*__________

(Please make cheques payable to WSPA or complete the credit card details below.)

Access/Visa/Mastercard/Switch/Eurocard/CAF CharityCard (Please delete as applicable)

Card No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

(If using Switch, please use the number printed in the middle of your card)

Expiry date ___/___ Today's date ___/___

Signature ____________________

CALL 0990 214 214 NOW

TO MAKE AN INSTANT DONATION.

Please send this completed form and your donation to: WSPA, Dept AL279, Freepost NH2604, Northampton, NN3 6BR. No stamp is needed. THANK YOU.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

Registered Charity No.282908

Hungry, horrible and living near you — **Stephen Anderton** on ways to control the mother of all grubs

Beware the evils of weevils

I had grown *Echeveria harmsii in pots for years*, neat little strongly-branching succulents from Mexico with chunky, tubular orange flowers whose mouths never fully open. And now here they were, just *keeling over. I blamed my in-*laws who had been house-sitting for us. I blamed their dog. I blamed frost. And then, on closer inspection, I blamed the real culprits — vine weevils.

The moral of the tale is that you can never look too closely at a sickly plant, even if it means digging it up. Of course I should have realised the problem was vine weevil, particularly as I know there is an efficient method of getting rid *of them, in pots at least.*

Adult vine weevils look like miniature black armadillos, just a bit longer and thinner *than a ladybird, and the* damage they cause to plants such as rhododendrons, euonymous, hydrangeas and berginias is largely cosmetic — they crawl up and nibble the edges of leaves at night. Generally they are not as harmful as their grubs, which eat roots. In particular they enjoy begonias, cyclamen and primula, and because they are busy nibbling underground, it is often only when a plant keels over that the problem becomes apparent.

I grow half a dozen echeveria plants in a pan by the front door in summer. They stay out until the frosts and are attractive even after flowering. All the attention they ever get is a splash of water every few days and one quick spray to deal with the blackfly, which in some years descend on the flower buds and stalks.

> WEEKEND **TIPS**
>
> - Prepare celery trenches and holes for runner beans and courgettes with old manure or compost.
> - Ensure that lawnmower blades have an undamaged, moderately sharp edge to get a clean, even cut.
> - Take 3in cuttings of soft herbaceous plants such as achillea and perennial salvias, set 1in deep in sandy compost and cover with polythene.
> - On nights when frost threatens, cover any plants which flower or grow early (magnolias, wall fruit blossom and so on) with polythene, *newspaper or fleece.*

Older plants grow to a foot or more high, but I prefer to see a group of shorter plants which flower just as well but are less likely to blow over on windy days. Plenty of stone and grit in the compost gives some counterweight, but *growing in a pan is more* secure.

Last autumn the pan of echeverias stood under cover of the porch, and when frost threatened I lifted them in for the night. Then, at this half-*way stage before they came in* fully for the winter, I had to go abroad, my in-laws came round and when we got back ... well you know the rest.

Fortunately echeveria is a great survivor. Tiny white roots began to appear up and down the trunks after a week indoors. Easy then, to chop off these tops, put them in some gritty compost and get them out of that old sour panful well before spring.

But in pulling apart the panful, the real cause of the problems was revealed. Among *the roots were the fat, creamy* grubs of the vine weevil, half an inch long, sickle-shaped, with a browny-yellow head. There *must have* been two dozen in that 12in pan.

Vine weevils are much more of a problem now than a few years ago. There are a couple of hefty chemicals to deal with them commercially, but these are not available to amateurs. And buying containerised plants increases the chance of us bringing home grubs in the compost.

The weevil's ideal home is a warm pot of peat-based compost, preferably planted with cyclamen and primulas, the perfect food for its grubs. And they are perfect mothers, every one; there are no male vine weevils, so they all lay eggs.

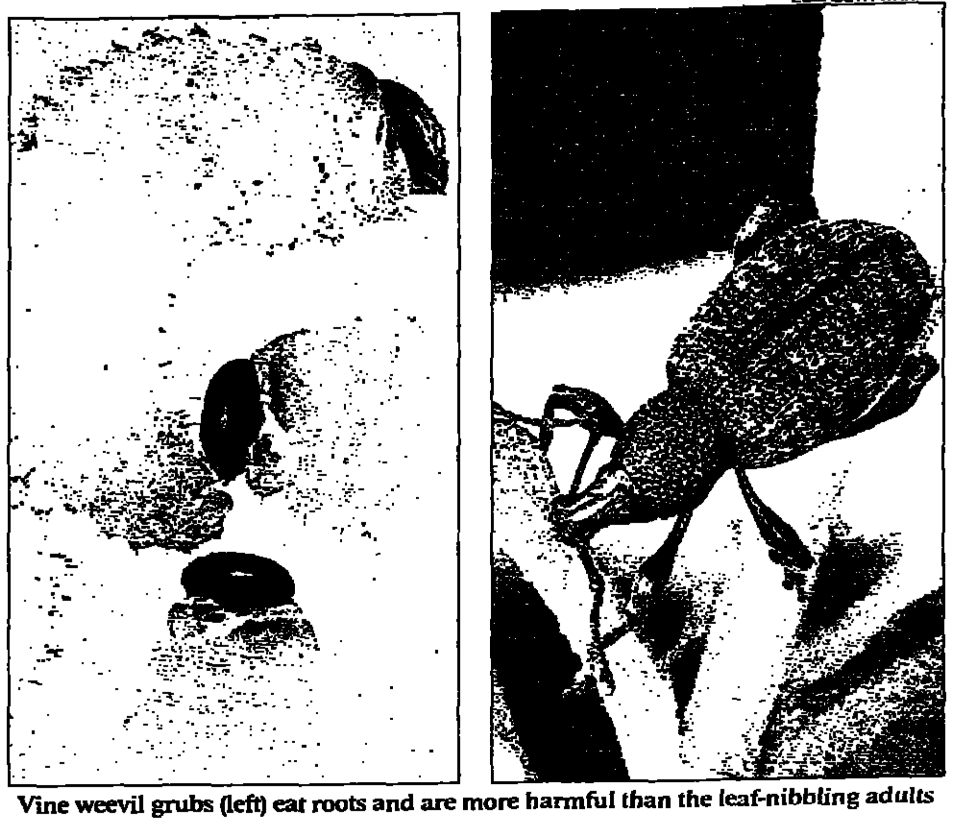
*In the warmth of a green*house vine weevils can reproduce all year round, but outdoors there is only one *generation, hatching in April* and laying eggs through the summer. The adults then die. And this is the moment for gardeners to get at the grubs with biological controls.

Such controls will not work in the cold of a winter garden, but in pots and borders where the soil temperature is above 12C, it is possible to use a microscopic "beneficial" eelworm or nematode, which parasitises the grub, swimming in through the natural body openings and killing it within 48 hours by bacterial infection.

Nematodes can be obtained by mail order in a moist compound and are watered on to the soil or pots in August or early September, when the adults should be dead or dying, and while the grubs are active. The nematodes have a short shelf life, and must be used by the date specified.

In cases of heavy infestation, it is helpful to reapply nematodes in spring, for a complete clean-up. Because vine weevils are native creatures and live happily in the garden, they will always come back eventually. But in pots at least, there is no need to despair of control.

ELIZABETH WHITING



Vine weevil grubs (left) eat roots and are more harmful than the leaf-nibbling adults

Weevils attack echeveria

● *A range of biological controls, including those for vine weevil, is available from: Defenders, Occupation Road, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EN (01233 813121) and Green Gardener, 41 Strumpshaw Road, Brundall, Norfolk NR13 5PG (01603 715096).*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q What do you recommend for a small orchard infested with woolly aphid? Is there a "green" remedy? — E. Hatton, Carlisle, Cumbria.

A Woolly aphids colonise pruning wounds and bark splits, leading to swelling and sometimes to the admission of canker. Small infestations on one or two young trees can be treated by painting the aphids with methylated spirits and spraying with insecticidal soap. Heavy infestations in old orchards do not have a ready solution, green or otherwise. If you wish to use chemicals, try permethrin, dimethoate, and pirimphos-methyl.

Q What climber do you suggest to cover the north-facing wall of our cottage? The walls are rendered and have some small cracks, which we do not wish to make any worse. We wondered about the creeper *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Veitchii', which climbs by suckers, but the red colouring might look angry against next door's bright pink rendering. Would the more delicate *P. henryana* do as well? — D. Heal, Sanderstead, Surrey.

A As self-clinging climbers go, the Chinese relative of Virginia creeper, *P. tricuspidata*, is probably the least harmful to rendered walls. *P. henryana* carries its suckers on the ends of longer, softer tendrils and in windy or difficult situations is harder to establish. It works better planted to sprawl into a shrub or tree, or down over a wall. It is also tender, and I would not recommend it for your needs. Both plants colour dark red in autumn, but *P. tricuspidata* 'Veitchii' also has red young leaves in spring. *P. henryana* is the more glamorous, with bronze-green leaves and veins picked out in pink or purple. The true Virginia creeper, *P. quinquefolia*, is tough, rampant, and green in spring and red in autumn, but it is a loose clinger and difficult to establish in windy conditions.

Q In relation to hedges, could you explain the terms stilted, pleached and espaliered? — D. Corble, London W8.

A A stilted hedge is one with bare stems at the base — on stilts if you like. Pleaching is the horizontal training of branches or twigs to make a screen or windbreak: the effect in summer can be a thin but solid wall of vegetation. An espaliered tree is usually a fruit tree, again with the branches trained horizontally, but producing a tiered structure which allows the light in to reach the fruit.

● *Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

HOMES & GARDENS

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

NETS! NETS! NETS!
ALUMINIUM FRUIT CAGES
Garden & Pond Netting ● Runner Bean Supports ● Cricket, Golf & Tennis Nets ● Ground Cover & Fleece
Send for FREE catalogue
KNOWLE NETS (TT) East Road, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4NX
Tel: 01308 424342

GARDEN DESIGN COURSE
Taught by Robin Williams, at beautiful Borde Hill Gardens, Sussex. Includes visits to other pedigree gardens.
1st - 7th June.
Details, Robin Williams, Phone: 01488 686150
Fax: 01488 686124
or Maggie Guitar on 0181 879 0998

conquer limescale and hardwater problems
'000s of satisfied customers in 35 countries
fast results guaranteed - or your money back!
No more shower head scaling and hotter water
Hair soon feels much softer and really clean
Costly limescale causes higher heating bills and repairs
"Within 3 or 4 days the kettle was virtually clear of limescale and remains so" R.V. Ward, Dorset
"We noticed an immediate difference, especially in the taste of the tea and the lather when washing up" S. Baker, Herts
"In less than two weeks the shower head stopped blocking up" I.K., Liverpool
Hardwater, limescale and scum are invasive, miserable & costly.
Now simply and affordably softened by WaterKing technology.
- Descales plumbing & appliances
- Prevents Limescale build up
- Safe for bottle fed babies
- Much kinder to skin and hair
- Cuts energy bills
- No plumbing, no salts, no chemicals
- Washing machines work better & last longer
- Maintenance free safe and harmless
WK1 Suitable for 3-4 Bed Houses
Affordable & Scientifically Proven
Independent Laboratory tests prove that Britain's only electronic water softener makes water softer without removing healthy minerals (such as Calcium). What's more it's effects are continuous and very affordable. Annually it costs only a few pounds, showing considerable savings over traditional chemical softeners.
Made in England - Product manufactured under a quality management system. Registered to ISO 9001, Certificate No. 95/5280. Patent applied for.
"...in the past we have had the salt water softener but find this just as good" N. Calver, Norfolk
WK1 Now available mail order for only: £125.00 NOW £99 Including VAT, P&P Results within 100 Days or Full Refund
Really easy to fit safely, simply & quickly
Fit in just 30 minutes.
No special skills of tools.
(Fitters available Nationwide if required)
FREE Tester & Brochure on all models
order now
WaterKing
As seen on T.V.
freecall 0500 382111
or by post WaterKing, Lifescience Products Ltd., FREEPOST OF2188, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4YU
☐ YES! Please send me the revolutionary electronic water softener with the no quibble 100 day money back guarantee.
☐ Please send me further information on the range of WaterKing Softeners.
Payment Details
☐ I enclose a cheque to the value of £99
Credit Card Details:
☐ Eurocard ☐ Visa ☐ Delta ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch
Credit Card No:
Expiry Date:
Switch Issue No (if required)
Signature:
☐ If you are under 18 years old please tick this box
Delivery Details
Name:
Address:
Post Code:
Tel No:
We aim to despatch mail order within 48 hours of receipt, however please allow 28 days in case of unforeseen circumstances.
TW1B

YARD-MAN™ by MTD®
affordable quality
● powerful
14.5hp or 16hp
● quality
heavy duty build
● value
affordable value
from £1,695.00
'direct collect®' tractors ●
super wet grass collection
lawn or rough ●
30" or 40" cut, fine finish
smooth ride ●
automatic or hydrostatic transmission
Freephone or Freepost for FREE brochure & stockists.
Name:
Address:
Post Code: Tel: T005
FREE PHONE 0800 0183366
MTD (UK) LTD, FREEPOST, Customer Services, Orlando House, 36 GedlingRd., Carlton, NOTTS. NG4 1BR.
MTD For A Growing World.™
BARRUS 80 YRS SERVING SPECIALISTS, SERVING YOU

Take the direct route to quality
Cannock Gates at Factory Prices
Send for your brochure today
Our brochure is our shop. So you can see the huge range of quality gates offered by Britain's biggest direct manufacturer; from beautiful timber gates to solid steel, wrought iron gates guaranteed for a lifetime. But you don't pay shop prices. See for yourself, send for your FREE 48 page colour brochure on 01543 462500 on our 24 hour Express Brochure Despatchline, or write to: Cannock Gates Ltd TT18 Hawks Green, Cannock, Staffs WS11 2XT

HOW TO TRANSFORM A MONO INTERIOR INTO FULL MEDITERRANEAN COLOUR.
18 original Mediterranean colours, exclusively from The Casa Paint Company Ltd.
Phone 01296 770 139 or fax 01296 770 002 to see the available range.
CASA
THE CASA PAINT COMPANY LTD, PO BOX 77, THAME, OXON OX9 3FZ

JUST ZAPP! YOUR GARAGE DOORS OPEN
FREE FITTING LIMITED OFFER
POWERED BY SOMFY MOTORS
Imagine the convenience and security of being able to open your garage doors without having to get out of your car.
Guardian's roller shutter garage doors are fully automatic and are operated by a remote, hand held controller.
- Made from tough, maintenance-free aluminium
- Durable stove-enamelled finish
- Range of colours
- Automatic locking
- Tailor-made for a perfect fit
- Installed by Guardian's own craftsmen
- High Security
FOR A FREE BROCHURE RING
01484 461010/0171 581 4443 SOUTHERN OFFICE
OR RETURN THE COUPON BELOW WITHOUT OBLIGATION
FREEPOST · SEND TODAY · NO STAMP REQUIRED
Post to TT28/4
GUARDIAN GARAGE DOORS, FREEPOST, HD3 HB, HUDDERSFIELD, HD3 3LL.
MR/MRS/MS
TELEPHONE
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
GUARDIAN The Property Protectors

YORKSTONE FLAGS
ALSO LIMESTONE
Good Quality Direct From Yorkshire
Deliveries Nationwide
DOLMENS
Tel: 01274 872368
Fax: 01274 569953

RECLAIMED GRANITE SETTS & YORKSTONE FLAGS
NATIONWIDE DELIVERY
Ring or Fax for Competitive Price
Tel: 01565 830345
Fax 01565 830885
Mobile 0976 694175

COMPOST BINS AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE YOU COULD PAY FOR BINS OF THIS CAPACITY
Quickly rots kitchen and garden waste into rich organic compost- keeps the garden tidy too!
STANDARD £15.00 inc. delivery
LARGE £17.50 inc. delivery
KING SIZE £22.00 inc. delivery
ARDENCO LTD. (Dept TTCH)
1a Wood Hill Industries, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 3LX

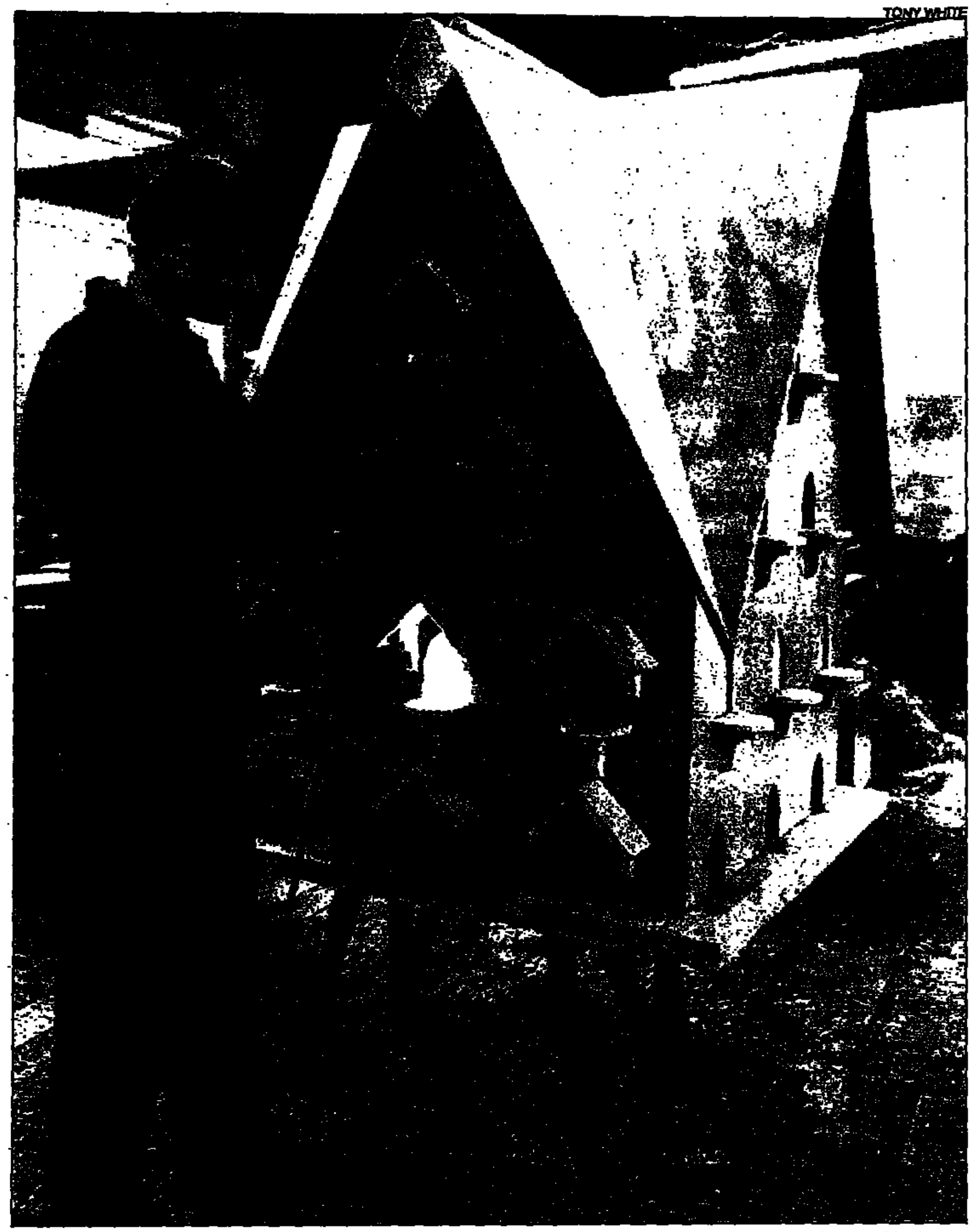
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE
ESCALLONIA...
● EVERGREEN HEDGE
● BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS
● TOUGH & HARDY – EVEN ON COASTAL AREAS
A new introduction from us, Escallonia will quickly grow into a lovely 6'- 8' hedge that will not only give you a profusion of exquisite flowers (delicate pink buds opening to white) from summer to early autumn, their beauty heightened with their setting against dark green glossy leaves...but will also give you an excellent evergreen windbreak - proof against intruders and the elements and giving privacy to your home.
Plant Escallonia 18" apart to form a tough and hardy hedge that will grow in any soil in either sun or shade, will tolerate drought and will readily establish on seaside locations. Take advantage of our introductory prices.
POST YOUR ORDER NOW!
5 for £13.25
10 for £23.75
20 for £43.75
P&P £2.10 on any order
BRAMLEY'S NURSERIES (T61)
331 BENFLEET ROAD·SOUTH BENFLEET·ESSEX
CALLERS WELCOME OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

THE IRON BED COMPANY
Traditional and contemporary designs, hand made by craftsmen. We specialise in mail order - so you can order by telephone, fax or post or visit one of our showrooms
LONDON HARROGATE GUILDFORD CHICHESTER BATH
The Iron Bed Company, Southfield Park, Delling Lane, Bosham, West Sussex PO18 8NN
Telephone: 01243 574849
Facsimile: 01243 573768

THE ONLY LAWNMOWER THAT'S AS RELIABLE AS A HONDA CAR.
It's called a Honda Lawnmower.
And it's built with all the same engineering skills and precision as a Honda car.
A powerful smooth-running engine. Electronic ignition for easy starting.
And the kind of dependable performance that enables us to give them a full 5-year warranty*. So you know they're built to last.
So Freephone 0800 378086 or clip the coupon for further details. And get years of reliable mowing.
*Subject to terms and conditions
Model featured HRB475-QX
Please send me the latest Honda ride-on ☐ lawnmower ☐ brochure (please tick) and the name of my nearest dealer.
Name: Tel No:
Address: 352
Postcode:
POST TO. HONDA ADVERTISING SERVICES, PO BOX 68 LOWESTOFT NR32 2LQ
HONDA
THE ONLY LAWNMOWER THAT'S AS RELIABLE AS A HONDA CAR

Return of the Victorian playground

Jane Owen finds that many of the gardens at Chelsea this year will have a 19th century theme


TONY WHITE

Carpenter Neil Staton puts the finishing touches to a dovecot for Bradstone's display at Chelsea

Every May the Chelsea Flower Show sets the agenda for the fashion-conscious garden in much the same way as Milan does for the clothes-obsessed.

After years when we have seen everything from a black-rubber sex garden to traditional Jekyll creations and wild 18th-century-style landscapes, 1997 hints at the 19th century, with several Victorian-style gardens being built for the coming show.

Ostentation and the burst of wealth from the Industrial Revolution brought a new driving force to gardens of the 19th century. By the early 1800s Capability Brown-style landscapes fell from favour to be replaced by elements of formal Italianate gardens: urns, ballustrading and terraces.

With the new-found wealth and the lure of the Empire and beyond, plant-hunters swept the world for the rare and unusual plants that would become the great status symbols. Vast, heated glasshouses were built to grow exotic fruit and display tender flowers. In summer, huge outdoor beds were laid to show the gaudy plants that were all the rage.

Today, the trend is to grow plants in appropriate positions so that they thrive with as little help as possible. But Victorians grew a staggering range of plants, despite sometimes unsuitable soil or climate.

At best, Victorian gardens were a playground of widely differing styles: stumperies, fern gardens, bedding areas, water gardens and so on, as at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire and Heligan in Cornwall. At worst they were a mishmash of styles and ideas.

Alan Sargent, who has built 30 gardens for the Chelsea Flower Show over the years, is one of those who can pick some of the more alluring features and turn them into a coherent Victorian-style garden suitable for today.

For instance, intricate flooring patterns were a great favourite and Mr Sargent uses bricks, all kinds of stone, cobbles, pavers and tiny pieces of slate upended to make unusual floor surfaces.

This year at Chelsea he is making a Victorian-style garden for Bradstone, using some of its reconstituted stone Victorian-style features: there will be a workshop posing as a timber gazebo filled with reproduction Victorian tools by Hortus Ornamenti, a thatched dovecot, a bothy, a copper gunnera-leaf fountain by Hugh Bowden, a bench from Andrew Crace (probably in the Japanese-style favoured by late Victorians, although Mr Sargent has yet to make a final decision) and a stumpery planted with ferns.

All the plants he plans to use would have been available in 1890 and, though the garden may not use any antique Victorian features, it will certainly give a taste of those heady gardening days for the thousands of visitors.

● *Alan Sargent, Willow Walk, Petworth, Sussex GU28 OEY (01798 342388). Damian Grounds, Hortus Ornamenti, 01243 782 467. Bradstone Garden Products, 01335 372222.*

Gardens to visit, page 20

ELIZABETH WHITING

Victorian gardens were a combination of widely differing styles

WHAT MAKES A VICTORIAN GARDEN

■ Horse teeth: these, along with tiles, mosaic, basketweave brick and pebbles, were used to make surfaces for terraces, summerhouses and paths.

■ Edging — typically rope-edged tiles: these gave a tidy, clean surround to all borders and lawns, even in small gardens. In cottage gardens, upended oyster shells were sometimes used, packed at the edge of beds.

■ Dahlias and chrysanthemums: two of the most popular flowers. Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire had a whole dahlia garden display in a long border with buttresses of yew.

■ Vegetable garden: crucial part of an estate, which was usually self-sufficient. The vegetables would be laid out at precise intervals along straight lines.

■ Pampas grass: a great favourite of suburban gardens, and some of the original plants survive.

■ Apples: the most popular garden fruit.

■ Glasshouses: in 1845 the tax on glass was abolished and so began an explosion of glasshouse building for fruit, vegetables and flower exotics. Conservatories, too, were popular as a place to sit and to show off prize specimens.

■ Garden gnomes: Sir Charles Isham first introduced them in 1865 to his alpine garden at Lamport Hall, Northants. He was followed by Sir Frank Crisp at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

■ Bird droppings: lots of guano was imported from the Pacific Islands to fuel the hungry plantings of flowers and vegetables. Goose excrement was popular too and, according to the gardeners of Heligan, Cornwall, was regarded as the secret of growing prize dahlias.

■ Lawns: for tennis, croquet and to set off the dazzling colours of the surrounding bedding.

■ Giant compasses: these were used to give accuracy to bedding schemes.

■ Horn-handled tools: these were introduced to give better grip, so causing less injury to hands.

Dahlias: 19th-century favourite

Win a trip to Chelsea

THE TIMES and Bradstone Garden Landscaping have joined forces to give you a chance to win 75 pairs of tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show in May. Just answer the following questions:

1. The most popular garden fruits in Victorian times were:
   a. plums
   b. raspberries
   c. apples

2. The Victorians used guano in their gardens. This is:
   a. basketweave brick work
   b. bird droppings
   c. pampas grass

3. The Bradstone garden at Chelsea will include the following feature:
   a. A thatched dovecot
   b. A waterwheel
   c. A swing

Send your answers, with your name, address and a day-time phone number, to: *The Times*/Bradstone Chelsea Garden Competition, London SE99 7YA, to arrive by Tuesday, May 6. The first 75 correct entries drawn after this date will each receive two tickets, worth £14 each, for the show on Thursday, May 22, valid between 3.30pm and 8pm.

Normal *Times* newspaper competition rules apply (available on request). The Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

20th-century favourite

HARD WATER
YEAR 3 GUARANTEE
The Scientific Solution
Incredible low-cost computer technology! Krystal is the simplest, most efficient answer to lime scale problems ever devised!
DISSOLVES existing limescale. INHIBITS formation of new limescale. PRESERVES health-giving natural substances in your water
What our Customers say
The results are first class... I purchased your product on Price and performance, against two other manufacturers - we made the right choice — GLW, Poole, Dorset
I purchased one of your units about a month ago, and I am delighted — GJW, London
I have been extremely pleased with the units performance, it was so easy to fit and unobtrusive. In my opinion the Krystal unit should be fitted to all new houses — CMB, Glos
An outstanding success ... — SVH, Harrogate
Excellent results! — FJMcC, Stoke-on-Trent
Last month I installed one of your water descalers. I'm delighted to say it is working as well, if not better, than I expected — NW, Twyford, Berkshire
FREEPHONE 0800 590050 FOR FREE BROCHURE
Lines open 24 hours, 7 days
*TREATS THE WHOLE HOUSE FOR LESS THAN £80
90-DAY HOME TRIAL
Krystal, 3 Old Ford Court, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 5AQ
Tel: 01672 564113
TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOMED
Customers in Ireland call 1800 675555 (24 hours)

SCATTER Clears Cats from your garden
NIGHT AND DAY, EVERY DAY
Scatter transmits random bursts of ultrasound at a frequency that cats avoid. They'll turn away long before they expose themselves to its full impact, so that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic - no sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable, fully weatherproofed miniature computer circuit.
Unique programme of computer-controlled ultrasound expels cats from lawns, flower beds, shrubberies, walls and patios
Not Affected by Weather
SWITCH between low-voltage mains or battery operation at will
NO affect on birds or other pets INAUDIBLE to humans
Scatter is completely safe. Installed in minutes.
Try it for 90 days - 5 year guarantee
FREEPHONE 0800 282824 FOR FREE BROCHURE LINES OPEN 24 HOURS 7 DAYS
Scatter, Old Lion Court, High St. Marlborough, Wilts SN8 1HQ 01672 511139 e-mail: sales@scatter.win-uk.net
TRADE and OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed.

Part exchange your old ride-on or tractor mower for BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING GARDEN TRACTOR
You'll be amazed at the difference in quality of cut and collection when you try a Countax - it has earned its market leading position by outperforming all its competitors! You will also be delighted at the generous allowance a Countax dealer may be prepared to make on your old machine - £250 minimum, but much more on machines in good condition.
Send for the Countax brochure and the name of your nearest participating dealer - and why not ask for a demonstration of a Countax in your own garden?
PHONE FREE 0500 279927
POWERED BY
To: Countax, FREEPOST, Great Haseley, Oxford OX44 7BR
Name
Address
Postcode Telephone
MINIMUM EXCHANGE ALLOWANCE £250
Offer is by participating dealers and is subject to dealer's discretion.
COUNTAX

The Button That Could Save Your Life.
Wear the Aid-Call button and, if you should have an accident, press it to summon immediate assistance.
It could be YOUR life-saver.
AGE Concern AID-CALL
FREEPHONE 0800 772266
Available throughout Great Britain & Northern Ireland

PARKLAND GARDEN FURNITURE
Two Chunky Seats with removable Link Tray. The set - £139 delivered
From our comfortable sturdy range of Garden Furniture Teak stained and ready for use.
Order with cheque payable to the Company at Old School Yard, Cottingham Street, Goole, East Yorkshire, DN14 5RR.
Tel: 01405 767768
(also in Derbyshire)
Tel: 01246 582113

QUALITY UPVC BOX SASH WINDOWS
£172
Windows made to measure
Despatched in kit form
For self assembly &
DIY or Professional fitting
Ready made windows available
01737 226445
GOOD OPENINGS
Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9RD

AT LAST The bath lift that allows you to lie down in your own bath.
With Bath-Knight, getting in and out of the bath could not be easier. Lie right back and enjoy your own bath – without obstructions.
The retractable band returns to the unit leaving the bath totally free for others.
Hygienic, safe and practical, Bath-Knight operates at the touch of a button with no heavy contraption to lift or clean. And it fits all baths, including spa baths.
Thousands of customers, impressed by the reliability and quality, have been enjoying their own bath, night after night, year after year.
Bath-Knight is only available direct from the manufacturers.
For a FREE colour brochure or further information, call our FREE Careline today on 0500 223442.
Or send this coupon (no stamp required) to: Bath-Knight, FREEPOST (ST1984), Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST1 5BR.
Mr/Mrs/Miss
Address
Postcode Telephone
Bath-Knight
BRITISH MADE

FLAT ROOF PROBLEMS?
If your FLAT ROOF is leaking or you think it might leak soon you need to contact A.P. Coatings Ltd.
WHY?
A.P. Coatings are the only flat roof company who offer the following in your area:
An attractive quality alternative to FELT or FIBREGLASS at a price that won't break the bank.
A system proven throughout the world for over 40 years.
A 20 YEAR MANUFACTURERS GUARANTEE from one of the worlds best known companies.
Materials backed by the BBA (British Board of Agrement)
A FREE no obligation written survey and quotation service
A.P. COATINGS PRICE COMPARISON
(DOUBLE DORMA)
FIBREGLASS PRICE: £1,263.00
(20-25 YEAR GUARANTEE)
A.P. COATINGS PRICE: £760.00
(20 YEAR MANUFACTURERS GUARANTEE)
HIGH PERFORMANCE FELT PRICE: £550.00
(10 YEAR GUARANTEE)
FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FROM START TO FINISH PHONE FREE ON
0800 581054
A.P. COATINGS LTD DO NOT USE OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS
SPECIAL RATES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

WARWICK BUILDINGS
* STUDIOS
* SUMMERHOUSES
* WORKROOMS
* GARAGES
* STABLING
Brochures available, please specify which product
SHOW SITE - SOUTHAM ROAD, Long Itchington, Nr Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 8QL
Tel: 01926 815757

CRAFTSMAN BUILT: DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY.
FREE CUSHIONS & CANOPY WORTH UP TO £89.95*
3 seater: Height: 5' 3" (1.61m), Width: 7' 4" (2.25m) overall, Depth: 4' 8" (1.43m), Length of seat: 5' 5" (1.66m) overall.
2 seater: Height: 5' 3" (1.61m), Width: 5' 10" (1.79m) overall, Depth: 4' 8" (1.43m), Length of seat: 3' 11" (1.20m) overall
When you buy our SWING SEAT from just £199.00 (+ £18.00 Carr. & Ins.) UK Mainland only
Cannock Gates sells and delivers direct exclusively. So, although our swing seat is of hand-made quality, since there's no middle man, we can sell it at a factory direct price - a fraction of what you'd pay in the shops.
That's why, when you buy our solid, smooth hand-planed, 2 seater Scandinavian redwood swing for only £199* or our 3 seater for just £249*, we can still afford to give you the cushions and canopy absolutely FREE (RRP normally £69.95 and £89.95 respectively). *Plus £18 carriage and insurance. Mainland UK only.
To order your swing seat, complete the coupon and send it to: Cannock Gates Ltd., (Dept TTSS 1897), Martindale, Hawks Green, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 2XT, or use our FREEPHONE credit card service.
FREEPHONE: 0800 462500 (24 HRS) FAX: 01543 506237 Quoting TTSS 1897
POST THE COUPON TODAY
2 seater swing £199 each: Qty ☐ (+ £18 carr & ins) 3 seater swing £249 each: Qty ☐ (+ £18 carr & ins) Total £
I am paying by ☐ cheque ☐ postal order made payable to Cannock Gates Ltd. OR
I am paying by ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Switch Issue No. ☐☐
Card No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expires ☐☐ ☐☐
Mr/Mrs/Ms Signature
Address
Postcode Tel. no TTSS 1897
Please tick box if you do not wish to receive mailings from carefully selected companies ☐
The Gateway to Great Garden Ideas

Rare farm animal breeds are being lost to the passing whims of science and macro-economics in food production. We should save them

Beware of meddling with nature

A cat may look at a king, so why should an Eriskay pony not have a day out at Buckingham Palace? Especially when there is vital work to be done. A few days ago in the Royal Mews, where proud, upstanding carriage horses are stabled, there stood the less regal but equally dignified pony making a shameless attempt to draw attention to itself. The world needed to know that the Eriskay ponies need help.

The Eriskay is one of a dwindling breed of native pony now under the conserving umbrella of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. This pony was helping to launch an urgent appeal for new members. If an appeal brochure should come your way, you will find me looking out at you from its front cover, which is not to say that I am particularly endangered. More importantly, our Suffolk Punches will be looking you in the eye, getting the message across that they, too, need help.

Of course, you may scoff at the whole idea of endangered breeds as a bit of heritage sentimentality. If so, give some thought to the recent announcement that cows may in future be fed a formulated diet so that the milk they produce will result in butter which will spread straight from the fridge. Thank you, science, for this great step forward: mankind will be free from the anguish of taking butter from the fridge only to find the knife bounces off it. Who knows how many people have turned to drink, drugs or violence faced with such humiliation?

If you have suffered this way, do not think *you* are to blame. It is, of course, the cow's fault. Said an official from the newly privatised food development arm of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (does not the juxtaposition of the words food, privatised, ministry and development not send shivers through your digestive system?): "Cows are vegetarians and what they eat is full of unsaturated fats. Unfortunately, the animals' digestive system converts unsaturated into saturated fats. So the milk that comes from the cow is high in the wrong kind of fats."

See, cows know nothing: the Ministry has all the answers (except, apparently, to the most embarrassing of questions, one of which also involves cows. If I were the Min of Ag, I would be keeping my mouth firmly shut on the subject of bovine nutrition).

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

But, as consumers, we are all a bit idle. I, too, have eaten "spreadable" butter. The process now in use at least employs manufacturing techniques and does not meddle with the cows' diet, but it has caught on and there will be no turning back. Cows are in for another change of diet to suit our human whims.

Which is where we return to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. This organisation preserves breeds of animal which were a common part of our farming scene until science and macro-economics took over the production of food. The breeds are part of agricultural history: the Large Black and the Gloucester Old Spot pigs, the Red Poll cow, the Norfolk Horn sheep and many others.

All these breeds became "outdated" for one reason or another and were discarded by commercial farmers, who follow fashion in ways that make Edina and Patsy look cautious. Whenever a new breed is developed they grab it eagerly, and it is only years later, when fashions have changed again, that the value of some of the old breeds is appreciated. So we must not let them vanish.

The folly of discarding unfashionable breeds cannot be overstated. To draw a parallel: suppose that, to speed up the transfer of information in a digital age, it was decided that we needed only 20 letters in the alphabet. Would that be good reason to consign to the bonfire all books using the full 26?

So is it sensible or safe to turn our backs on cows which have served us well to develop new ones which might deliver unnecessary items such as spreadable butter, pre-whipped cream, or milk which can't boil over?

If farming has made one mistake it is in forgetting that it was a partnership between man and nature. It was a game played out on the fields and in the barns; on some days man won, on others nature had the upper hand.

Then came advanced agricultural science and the balance tipped in favour of the farmer, who could now perform all manner of miracles to save crops from pest and disease, animals from illness, and make fertile land where nothing would flourish. Almost overnight, it changed to become a master and servant relationship.

Or so we thought, because occasionally nature refuses to submit, no matter how tight the grip we place on her. Nature kicked back with mad cow disease, over organo-phosphates, and DDT.

If she kicks again, in some unpredicted way, it may be so viciously that we have to submit and retrace what we thought were giant steps forward to regain a simpler, safer kind of farming.

You can spend your money on spreadable butter if you like. But the army of faithful servants headed last week by that Eriskay pony should not be forgotten. We may need them one day.

- *Rare Breeds Survival Trust, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG (01203 696551).*
- *Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters. Write to Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.*

FEATHER REPORT

Lulu sings again

WOODLARKS are circling and singing over a few favoured spots in England. If there is one near you, it will not be very hard to identify.

Skylarks rise from the ground almost vertically, and hang in the air by flying at wind speed into the wind. Woodlarks go up with an awkward, fluttering flight, then circle round high in the sky over a wide area, their song showering down.

The songs are also quite different. The skylark's is a sustained sweet note, slightly monotonous, while the woodlark's is wild and lyrical, with a wonderful, recurrent "lu-lu-lu" phrase in it. In fact it is called the *lulu* in France.

Skylarks are common birds of the cornfields and treeless moors, but the woodlark has a much more limited habitat. It needs a wide stretch of bare ground, or ground with very short grass, to feed on, and it needs some scattered trees as look-out posts and songposts. It sings from the top of a tree as often as it does in the sky.

PETER BROWN

Woodlarks circle the sky

The top spray of a young conifer will sometimes be permanently bent from a woodlark sitting on it.

For that reason it is restricted to the kind of heathland edge where the ground is scarred by fires or military manoeuvres, or the grass is nibbled by rabbits. Among the few places where it is found today are some of the West Country heaths, the Surrey-Hampshire border, and the Brecklands.

IT IS A BIRD I always love to come across, for its song above all, but also for its confiding ways. When you flush one from the ground in the breeding season, it goes up with a liquid triple note, then lands not far off on the ground or on a dead bush.

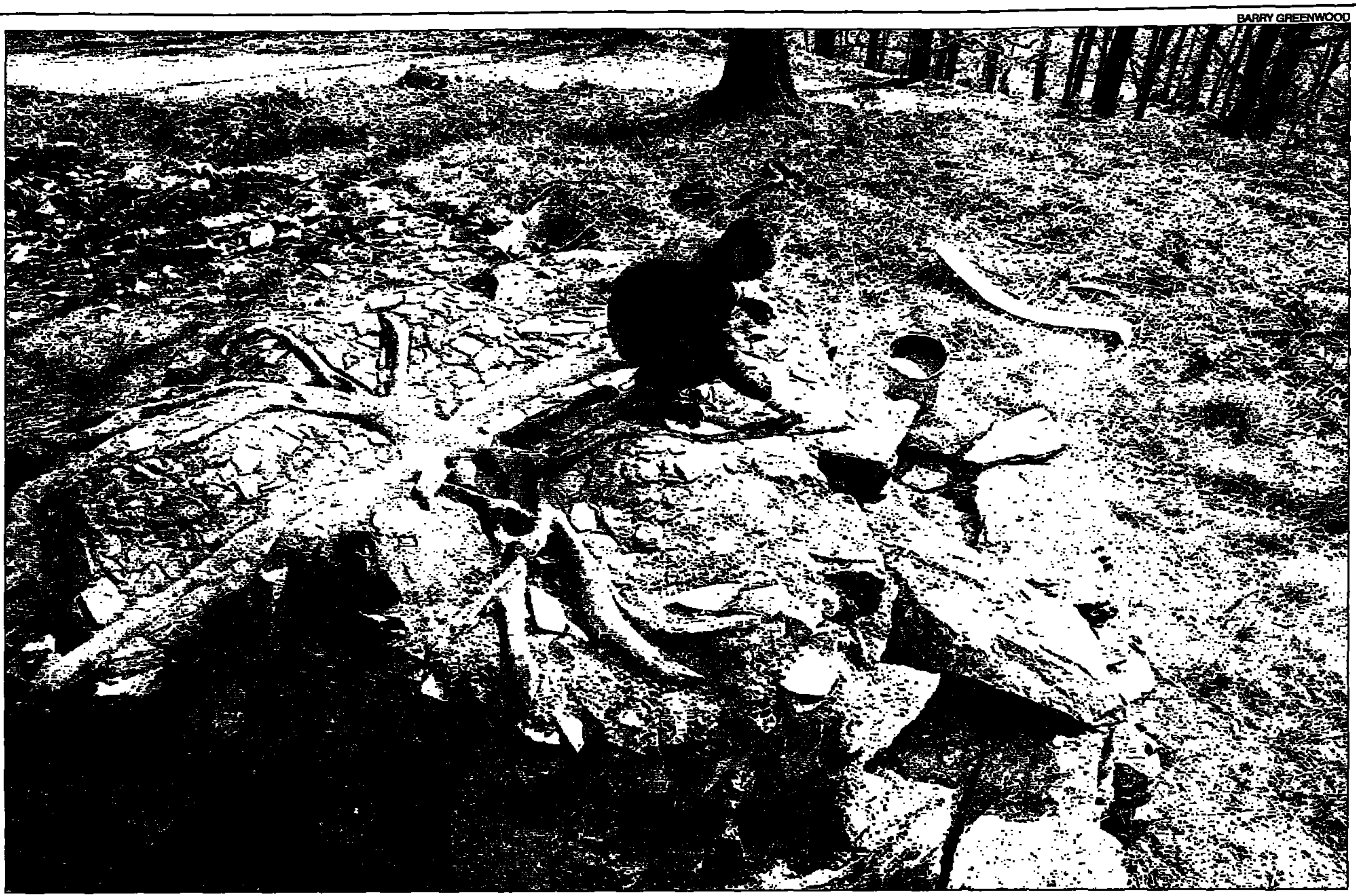
Here you can easily see the features that distinguish it from a skylark — the white eye-stripe, the fine bill, and the short, square tail. The skylark is sturdier, and has a long tail with white edges.

The pair keep very close together in the nesting season, and except when the female is incubating, as soon as you spot one you generally see the other. Their nest is a well-woven cup made of moss and grass stalks, and hidden in a clump of heather, and the female lays three or four eggs spotted with rusty brown. Both parents look after their young — and these friendly birds have sometimes been observed feeding their nestlings side by side.

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — listen for garden warblers in woodlands. Twitchers — glossy ibises at Pilling, Lancashire; woodchat shrike at Reculver, Kent; black kite at Witney, Oxfordshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

BARRY GREENWOOD



The Japanese artist Shigeo Toya at work in Grizedale Forest, Cumbria, on a sculpture called *Underground Tree*, the first in a series of ten works planned for a mile-long trail

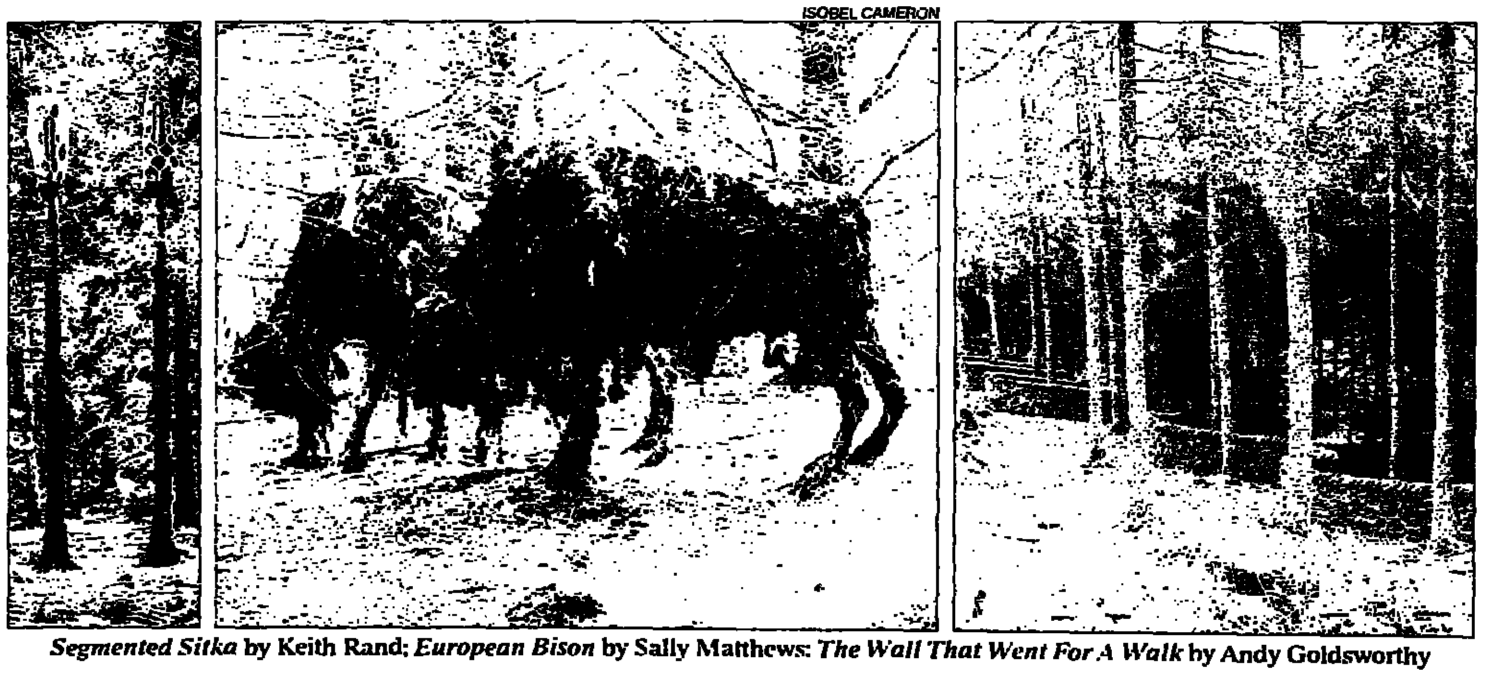
FACT FILE

- **Grizedale Forest, three miles south of Hawkshead, Cumbria (01229 860291), has two trails: the nine-and-a-half-mile Silurian Way and the half-mile Riddings Wood trail for the elderly and disabled.**
- **The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail (01594 833057), 20 miles southwest of Gloucester, is three and a half miles long and starts from Beechenhurst Lodge picnic site, off the B4226, west of Speech House.**
- **The Chiltern Sculpture Trail (01865 723684) is at Cowleaze Wood, near Junctions 5 and 6 of the M40. The two-mile trail starts at a car park about two miles north of Christmas Common.**
- **Tyrebagger Sculpture Project (01330 844537), Kirkhill Forest, is about four miles northwest of Aberdeen, beside the A96. It has seven artworks, including five *European Bison*, by Sally Matthews. She also has three pieces at Grizedale Forest, one called *Wolves*.**
- **Kielder Castle Forest Park Centre (01434 250209), about 36 miles north of Hexham, Northumberland, on the B6320/C200, has a small number of sculptures, but expects more this year.**

Carving through the forest

Christian Dymond finds there's more to a wood than trees these days. Thanks to environmental artists you could see bison, wolves and even a wall that went for a walk

ISOBEL CAMERON



Segmented Sitka by Keith Rand; *European Bison* by Sally Matthews; *The Wall That Went For A Walk* by Andy Goldsworthy

Twenty years ago, if you went to the forest for a day out, it would be to see the trees and wildlife. Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have flocked to many of our forests for entirely different reasons.

Amble through the woods at Grizedale in the Lake District, for instance, and you might come across a circus, a harbour, a company of wolves, a waterwheel, or even a wall going for a walk. They are all forest sculptures, and have become a dramatic means of drawing people into the country.

More than 15,000 Japanese tourists a year visit the Lake District and, for most of them, the big draw is Hill Top, the house at Near Sawrey where Beatrix Potter lived at one time.

But Peter Rabbit's creator was not why Shigeo Toya came to Cumbria. Over the past two weeks, the Japanese artist has been working on an environmental sculpture called *Underground Tree*, the first in a series of ten works planned for a mile-long international sculpture trail at Grizedale.

There is sculpture, too, in Forestry Commission woods in other parts of Britain — the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, Cowleaze Wood in the Chiltern Hills, Buckinghamshire, and the Tyrebagger Sculpture Project at Kirkhill Forest near Aberdeen, for instance — but Grizedale, which won the Prudential Award for the Arts in 1990, is regarded as the daddy of them all.

The first piece of sculpture went in 20 years ago and since then more than 200 others have been created. Of these, about 80 can be seen now, because time and the elements have taken their toll.

In terms of attracting visitors, Grizedale, with its two established trails (and a theatre), has been a huge success. In 1963, when the Forestry Commission first allowed public access to the woods, about 500 people turned up. Today, visitors total about 350,000 a year.

Bill Grant, the director of the Grizedale Society, the charity which runs the trails, says: "I thought sculpture was a good way of using the forest, and that the woods were a less intimidating place than a gallery to show sculpture."

Mr Grant believes the sculptures play a catalytic role in encouraging people to appreciate wildlife and flora. "There are 9,500 acres of forest at Grizedale with red deer, roe deer, pied flycatchers, falcons, hawks and an abundance of other wildlife. So when people are looking for the sculptures they can't help but take in and appreciate the environment around them," he says.

In the Forest of Dean, the impetus for a sculpture trail came from the desire to attract people deeper into the forest "so that they could enjoy its magic and mystery", says Martin Orrom, the chairman of the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust.

The trail, he says, has a sense of the treasure hunt, which makes visitors look closer at the woods and the wildlife.

The 27,000-acre forest has sweet chestnut, ash, beech, conifers and a huge number of ancient oaks among its millions of trees. It is also home to buzzards, peregrine falcons, sparrowhawks, pied flycatchers, owls, foxes and fallow deer. The sculpture trail was opened in 1986 and at present has 12 pieces, though more will be added. It attracts 75,000 visitors a year.

"We felt that sculptures, more so than nature trails, were the best way to interpret the special history and wildlife of this place. Every piece, therefore, has to relate to the locality," Mr Orrom says.

Consequently, a work called *Iron Road* by Keir Smith is composed of 20 old railway sleepers lying on the bed of a disused railway track and carved with images relating either to the forest's industrial past (coal and iron) or its abundant wildlife. There is also *Black Dome*, which is made of 900 charred larch stakes sunk into the ground. These reflect the ancient forest craft of making charcoal.

The Chiltern Sculpture Trail in the 70-acre Cowleaze Wood, west of High Wycombe and close to the M40, was started for a different reason: that of searching for alternative spaces to galleries where artists could site their work.

"If you ask some people if they want to visit an art gallery they'll just groan, but if you say come for a walk in the forest and see some sculptures they'll jump at it," says Sheena Etches, the director of the Chiltern Sculpture Trust.

A collection of 25 works is on display at Cowleaze, with two or three being replaced every year. About 50,000 people a year visit the trail. The sculptures, often using steel and synthetic fabrics, as well as wood and stone, are created specifically for their site but do not have to be made in the wood.

This differs from Grizedale, where all art works have to be made on site, using a high proportion of materials found locally. Three pieces by the internationally renowned artist Andy Goldsworthy — *Seven Spires*, *Sidewinder* and *The Wall That Went For A Walk* — are composed of little more than wood or stone.

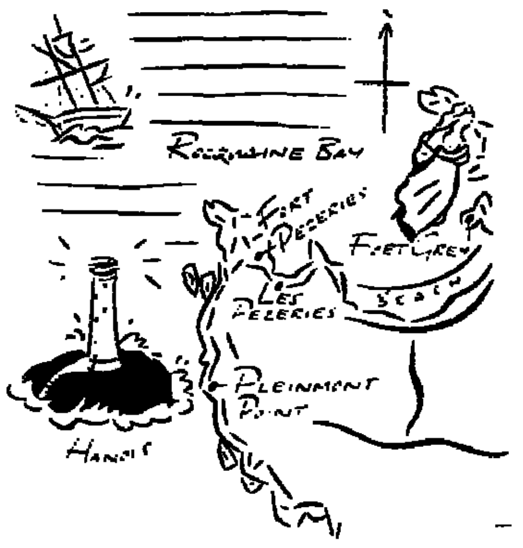
The first two pieces, made more than ten years ago, were Mr Goldsworthy's first big projects after leaving college. He is now involved in a project in Cumbria using 100 sheepfolds as places for both permanent and ephemeral sculptures.

For his work at Grizedale, Shigeo Toya has taken a huge windfall tree, trimmed and cleaned its roots, cut off the trunk at 6ft, moved it to a different location in the forest and upended it, burying the stump in the earth. Rocks and smaller stones have been placed under the canopy of roots.

This may be one of the last sculptures Mr Grant organises before retirement. At 78, with an OBE for services to the environment and the arts, he is soon to step down. Although he was away for some years during the Second World War, it is 60 years since he first came to Grizedale as a student forester.

There is no doubt that he has left a dramatic legacy.

JANE SPENCER



ON THE SPOT : SOUTHWEST GUERNSEY

The place: Pleinmont Point on the southwestern corner of Guernsey.

The view: Looking westwards you can make out the angry white tips of waves on a line of reefs called *Les Hanois* — the grave to many a ship and marked by the 1862 Hanois Lighthouse. To the north is Guernsey's largest bay, Rocquaine.

The appeal: My mother recalls watching the ocean roll and crash in the post-storm grumbles of a bright November morning; I was born that evening. It has a magical atmosphere, with fairy rings of toadstools, and I made wishes in them as a child.

Aficionados: Wish-makers, tourists to the ruined castle and locals looking for peace and views.

Historical interest: The ruined castle of Pezeries stands, in the shape of a star, on the headland. At the foot of the cliff is a circle of stones, which are thought to be of prehistoric origin and known as *Le Table des Pions* (the footmen's table).

Time to visit: Seductive in mid-winter and at its bleakest. Best time is just after a storm when the waves are wild and the wind is blustery enough to blow away any cobwebs.

OS reference: There is no ordnance survey map of Guernsey, but Pleinmont Point can be found in the island's *Perry's Guide*.

How to get there: Fly from most UK airports, ferry from south coast ports.

Also nearby: Fort Grey in Rocquaine Bay, an early 18th-century coastal tower, now a maritime museum. But, being only 24 square miles, the whole island is nearby.

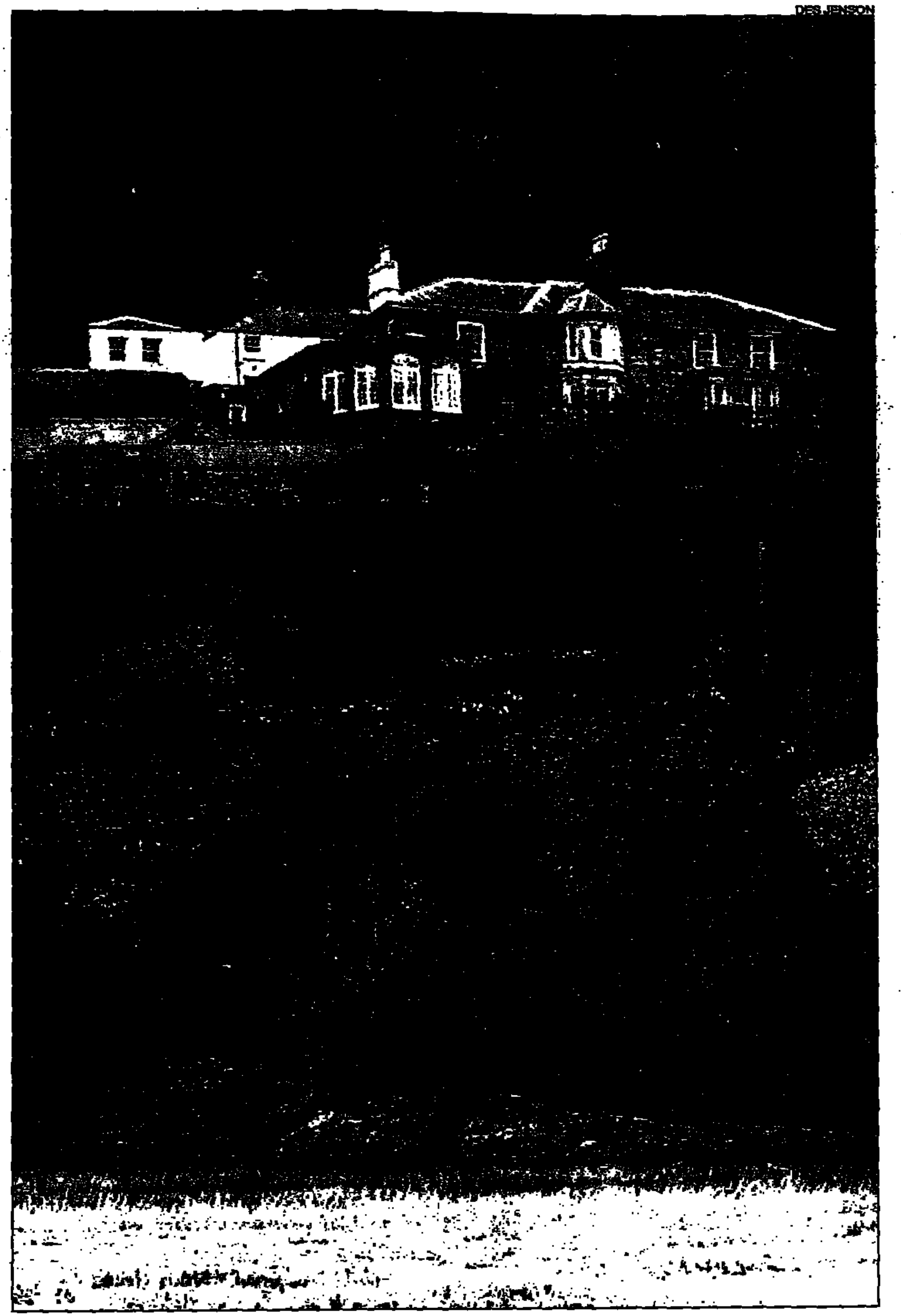
VICTORIA WALKER

هكذا من الاعلى

Haven on Ruskin's heavenly highway

Alex O'Connell takes the Barmouth road to a beguiling house in the Welsh hills

Time to relax on the Chinese Room settee at Glan Mawddach



From its vantage point on a plateau, the house looks out across the Mawddach estuary

Ruskin once said that the road from Barmouth to Dolgellau in North Wales was so beautiful that it was surpassed only by the road from Dolgellau to Barmouth. Luckily there is no alternative route to Glan Mawddach. The drive up to the steep hillside on the north of the Mawddach estuary, with views of the estuary and Calder Idris to the southern side, simply took my breath away — like eating four extra strong mints at the same time. Surrounded by frolicking lambs, sun-dappled water and cornflower blue skies, I felt I had died and stepped into one of those soft-focus posters found on the walls of happy-clappy church halls.

Glan Mawddach is an elegant Regency house reached by a sweeping gravel drive. It was owned, until his death in 1989, by Sir William Clayton Russon, who was instrumental in the wartime Dig For Victory campaign which encouraged people to grow their own vegetables, and whose love of gardening made him wish for a home with very particular grounds. He first viewed the house in 1943 and fell in love with it, but was almost pipped to the auction post by an MP. Luckily for Sir William, the MP was delayed by a late-night sitting at Westminster and an air raid, and arrived just as his rival signed the completion papers.

It is hard to imagine how anyone could not develop a serious crush on this location. The house does not perch on top of the hill but fits snug as a bug into a plateau cut into the hillside.

The house is spacious with five bedrooms, a self-contained flat and a sprinkling of outbuildings. Downstairs is a large drawing room with a marble hearth, plaster mouldings and the sort of view that I had previously thought existed only in Cinemascope. Next door, the Chinese Room would look remarkably like the other rooms but for its two elaborately-painted bird panels.

The perfectly symmetrical pond garden is in a cool, leafy glade

The conservatory, a 1950s add-on with polished stone floors, is reached from the dining room through French windows. Lined with jasmine and camellia, it is a highly successful suntrap.

Follow your nose to the back of the house and you find a large, sunny kitchen with quarry-tiled floors and laminated 1950s worktops that probably feature in the erotic dreams of *Elle Decoration* subscribers.

The Welsh Parlour is cool and dark, and contains an impressive traditional stove complete with genuine iron pots and brass implements, and a huge payphone. I wondered why the two items of equipment shared this space, half expecting the telephone to ring with a request from *Challenge Anneka*: "We need a dozen Welsh cakes in ten minutes."

Upstairs the bedrooms are light and spacious, although the pink carpet is a too redolent of a small girl's bedroom for my taste.

A two-bedroom, self-contained flat sits at the top of the house. The present owners often rent it out, and it has the best views of all — its position enables you to look right up the estuary.

The gardens are diverse, original and well-kept, veined with steep and winding mossy stone paths which strain the calf muscles. The wrought-iron gates are guarded by two austere stone kestrels, marking the start of the azalea walk which leads to the fountain garden. The nearby topiary looks touched by the hand of Buddha: five trimmed bushes depict various stages of avian development, starting (naturally) with an egg and ending up with a fully fledged bird.

Around the corner lies a most beautiful dovecot. Alas, dove-fancying is no longer *de rigueur* for most homeowners and the structure is empty and in need of attention, although perhaps that is its charm.

The pond garden is perfectly symmetrical and a path leads out to a small stone swimming pool, shielded by trees and bushes for the benefit of the modest bather, and a perfect suntrap. Fed by streams, the pure water is as clear as glass. The balustraded, flagged Italian terrace to the east of the house is lined with antique terracotta pots, brought back from Italy by Lady Russon. It is the perfect vantage point on which to pour yourself a drink and watch the sun set to a soundtrack of lapping water.

● *Agent: Jackson-Stops & Staff (01244 328361).*

THE AGENT for last week's house of the week, Elm Lodge in Cumbria, is Tim Blenkin in association with Knight Frank (01904 671672).

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Imposing wrought-iron gates

Glan Mawddach, Mawddach Estuary, Snowdonia National Park, Wales. ● **Price:** Offers in the region of £410,000. ● **Travel:** Train to Machynlleth and Barmouth. Beautiful drive up to the house. ● **Shopping:** Local produce in Barmouth and Dolgellau, cockles from the estuary, Chester and Shrewsbury for chain stores. ● **Entertainment:** The George Hotel on the other side of the estuary is Egon Ronay recommended. Plenty of hill walking in the area. Chester and Shrewsbury for cinemas and theatre.

PROPERTY NEWS

■ THE *Old Vicarage Cottage* in Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk, which was painted by John Constable, is for sale, *Amanda Loose writes.* The thatched roof of Constable's day has been replaced with slate, but the four-bedroom cottage is being sold part-leasehold for a term of 1,000 years from April 20, 1653, at a peppercorn rent. Offers in the region of £175,000. For information, contact Savills on 01473 226191.

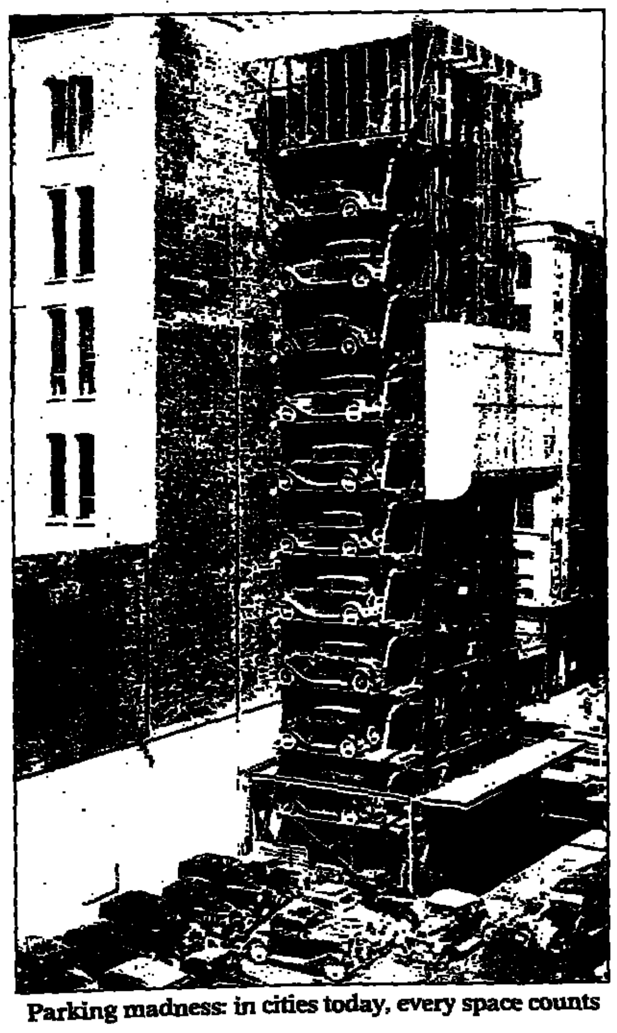
■ PROPERTIES in Battersea and Putney, southwest London, are taking an average of two weeks to sell, according to the latest London market report from Foxton's, and first-time buyers are out in force, with money to spend. A two-bedroom garden flat in Bennerley Road, SW11 has just sold to a first-time buyer for £185,000, nearly £40,000 more than it sold for last year.

■ HYDON RIDGE, near Hambledon in Surrey, is for sale. Built in 1911, the property has 6.75 acres of grounds which were originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll, and the dovecote has a weathervane designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens which depicts Gertrude Jekyll as an angel. Guide price: £1.5 million. Contact Browns on 01483 267070.

■ MORE buyers are looking for unusual properties, according to Guy Foster of Friend & Falcke in Clapham, south London. "Buyers have turned away from conventional properties and now want something different, such as huge windows or a galleried reception room. Such properties are selling quickly and at higher prices," he says.

SELLING POINTS

PARKING



Parking madness: in cities today, every space counts

If you're ever tempted to turn your garage into an extra bedroom, games room or even a much-coveted mini-gym with sauna, think again. Parking space is highly sought-after by house-hunters, with many willing to pay well over the odds to keep their cars off the road — especially in the capital where, according to agents Beaney Pearce, some vehicles may be broken into or stolen twice in one year.

If you buy a house with a garage, keep the garage, says Julian Ash of Chestertons Residential. "Many mews owners consider converting their garage into living space, thinking this will add to the value of the property. But they would be advised to retain the garage space which, in my view, has a much higher value than an extra bedroom," he says.

A garage can add a 50 per cent premium to the price of a prime central London house, says Ed Mead of Douglas & Gordon, with many garages going for more than a house in the provinces.

For the same price as an off-street space in prime central London, you could purchase a terraced house in Middlesbrough, according to the latest Land Registry figures. A garage in Chelsea can cost as much as a detached house in Pembrokeshire.

Indeed, Mayfair agents Wetherall have just sold seven car parking spaces off Grosvenor Square for £30,000 per space to a single buyer. Douglas & Gordon sold a garage in Dilke Street, Chelsea, for £65,000 on a 29-year lease.

Just down the road, a buyer made an offer of more than £500,000 last month for a house with a double garage — over £100,000 more than the selling price of houses in the same area without a garage, say agents Aylesford.

There is nothing unusual about this, says Linda Beaney of Beaney Pearce, who recently had an inquiry from a resident of the Albert Hall Studios in Kensington, west London, who wanted to buy another unmodernised flat in the same block, simply to get the two parking spaces that came with it.

"Finding garages in central London is like looking for a needle in a haystack. For many Londoners, off-street parking is a prerequisite when house-hunting, to the point that they will sacrifice space or the location to get their cars off the road," Ms Beaney says.

David Forbes of Chesterfield reckons 75 per cent of his customers stipulate that the property they buy must have parking.

Simon Ayrton of Friend & Falcke's Belgravia office agrees: "Off-street parking is often one of the top five must-haves for those looking to buy a substantial family house in Belgravia.

"We find many buyers at the top end of the market will consider spending an additional couple of hundred thousand pounds to acquire a mews house, just so they can have the use of its garage."

Parking is obviously at a premium in prime locations such as Kensington, Chelsea and Knightsbridge, says Lorna Vestey of Knight Frank — and anyone who has driven through Fulham will know there are too many multi-car flatsharers in the area.

But parking is also highly sought-after in areas where it is simply not safe to leave your car on the road, Ms Beaney says.

Parking is also a hot topic in many historic cities, especially Oxford, where the pressure is almost as great as in the capital, says Huw Warren of Cluttons. "A parking space can make a difference of between £10,000 and £15,000 on a £100,000 flat, and an extra £20,000 to £25,000 for a large town house with off-street parking."

Even in Lewes, East Sussex, parking spaces command a premium, with garages adding as much as 10 per cent to the value of a property, according to John Husband of the local Humberts office.

When they put it like that, forgoing a games room seems no hardship.

AMANDA LOOSE

PROPERTY

NORTH OF THE THAMES

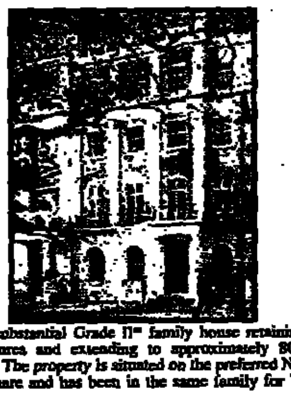
HADLEY WOOD
Luxury house set in approx 1 acre, 8 bedrooms, 5 en suite, 6 receptions, gym, utility, games room, double garage. 24hr CCTV, video entry. 160ft frontage, electric gates. £1.3 million.
0171 247 6361.

NORTH OF THE THAMES

ST GEORGE'S MEWS
CHISWICK, W4
A new grand development of 3 Victorian style family houses.
2 receps, large kit/break, conserv, master bed with e/s, 3 further beds, 2 baths, West facing gardens, o.s.p.
Due for completion Summer 1997
Prices from £349,950.
Brochure from Allen Briegel
0181 392 1635.

LONDON PROPERTY

EATON SQUARE
LONDON SW1
'One of the few remaining original houses of Eaton Square'



A fine and substantial Grade II* family house retaining all its original features and extending to approximately 808 sq m (8,700 sq ft). The property is situated on the preferred North side of Eaton Square and has been in the same family for 70 years.
LEASEHOLD PRICE ON APPLICATION
FAREBROTHER
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
1 Pemberton Row, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3ET
Telephone: 0171 405 4545 Fax: 0171 404 4362.
Established 1799

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES
MONDAY-THURSDAY 9AM-8PM
FRIDAY 9AM-6PM
SATURDAY 9AM-4PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM
TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

NORTH OF THE THAMES

AUGUSTINE RD, W14 -£500,000. Superbly presented end of terrace house in enviable position by Brook Green. 4 bed, 2 bath, dble rec, kit/din. Detached modernised studio and patio garden. Freehold. Marsh & Parsons 0171 602 0025

BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Lists. 7 days 10am-10pm 0171 838 1104.

CLEAVELAND SQ. W2 3 bed 2 bath grd and lwr grd flat with patio in ptd bldg £295,000 Westways 0171 792 2167.

FERMOY RD W9 2 bed split level flat with access to flat roof £96,000 Cass 0171 286 5757.

FITZGEORGE AVE,W14-£250,000. Third floor flat with lift in prestige mansion block. 3 bedrooms, reception room with balcony, kitchen, bathroom. 92 year lease. Marsh & Parsons 0171 602 0025

LITTLE VENICE/Maida Vale. The specialist local agents. Vickers & Co 0171 289 1692

MAITLAND COURT W2 2 bed luxury flat with large bright recep in PBB close to Hyde Park and all amenities.£199,950 including garage space. Hallam 0171 580 3129 or 0956 291572

MALVERN MEWS NW6 Selection of newly built 2 bed houses. £120,000 Cass 0171 286 5757.

MARYLEBONE, NW1. excellent 3 bedrm house, private patio gdn nr Regents Park. F/H £259,995. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

PONSONBY PL. Period house arranged over 4 floor on vgc, lease to 04.04.2092. £350,000. Best Gapp. Tel 0171 730 9253

PRIME LONDON PROPERTY LIST. 3000 + for sale in W1 W2 W8 W9 W11 SW1 SW3 SW7 SW10 NW1 NW3 NW8 The whole prime London market at a glance. 3 months subscription £75 + pp. 0181 262 9000

REPOSSESSIONS The Building Society Repossessions List. 1200+ flats and houses in London and the Home Counties 3 month subscription £59 + pp BSRL 0181 262 7788

SHIRLAND RD W9 1 bed lwr grd flr flat with gdn in need of mod £134,950 Cass 0171 286 5757

W2 3 bed 2 bath flat in ppb 43' recep needs mod £299,950 Westways 0171 792 2167.

W2 Bright & Spac 3 bed top floor maisonette in period bldg with 2 balconies. £225,000 Westways 0171 792 2167.

W2 Bright well kept 2 bed flat in mod p/built block. £169,950 Westways 0171 792 2167.

W1 Macready Hse. 2 bed, 2 bath, lift, porter, S.O.F. £265,000. Exec Homes 0171 724 9919

W2/W11 Urgent appeal to all vendors. We are selling more than we can replace. Please call Westways 0171 792 2167.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

SOUTH LONDON:
Spacious Victorian semi-detached house with original and period features in popular residential road in Dulwich area. Attractive family accomodation comprising 4 bedrooms, 3 reception rms, kitchen, bathrm, toilet, cellar. Front garden, off street parking, 60' rear garden. GCH. 3 mins BR.
OIRO £190,000.
For details/ viewing contact 0181 299 1722 or 0468 404640

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

CLAPHAM SW4 split level maisonette just off 'Abbeville Rd' 3 beds, lounge, kit/diner, bath, sep WC, GCH. Lg lse £160,000 Price & Co 0181 673 3345

CLAPHAM COMMON 2 bed Victorian 1st floor apt. Large recep, original features. £95,000. 0171 221 9044

RIVER VIEWS, SW11. A 6th floor 2 bedroom flat in plantation wharf, underground parking & porterage. £179,950. Halifax Property Servs. 0171 924 1011

SW11 Between the Commons. 2 bed mais in premier location. £150,000 0171 253 4414.

BARNES
Imposing detached six bedroom period property extensively refurbished. Three elegant receptions, kitchen breakfast, two bathrooms, shower room, cloakroom, utility, garden, driveway with extensive parking.
O.I.E.O £800,000.
0181 563 8333.

SHAFTESBURY ESTATE,
SW11. Larger than average 2/3 bedroom end of terrace house with well fitted kitchen, bathroom and shower room. Double garage, 26" roof terrace, study/ bed 3. Freehold £205,000. Viewing taking place on Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 April only. Please telephone any time
0976 382669.

BATTERSEA PARK, SW11
Superior new conversion of flats close to park comprising 3 rooms, luxury kitch/diner & bath, one with gdn. Nearing completion. Lse 125 yrs.
FROM £129,000.
0171 223 8227
0976 851 469 (M)

BELGRAVIA

SW1 Gracious, modernised ground flr flat in period building. Spacious, high ceilings. Rec rm, 2 dbl rm, bath, FF kit, cable TV. Lease hold/share free hold. £185,000. Tel: 0171 821 6202.

F.W. GAPP
We offer a personal and professional service to Landlords & Tenants in all aspects of the Letting market, and would be delighted to hear from you.
ARLA MEMBER
The Property Managers
[illegible]

BLACKHEATH

3 BED APARTMENT in superb period house in quiet road on private estate. Amazing interior featured in April's edition of Homes & Gardens. Garden & garage. £245,000 Hamilton Kershaw 0181 297 2922.

CITY & WEST END

EC4 2 bed 2 bath 2 receps 7th floor with city views £198,000 Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

E1 5 storey Georgian house, will convert into 2 homes. In need of refurbishment. £125,000. 0181 349 9839/0831 593030

WC1 Spacious 2/3 bed, 3 floors, 111 year lease. £145,000 Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

SHAD THAMES
Warehouse conversion stunning Penthouse appartment in well-managed block. 2 beds, 2 bath, spacious r.r., F/F kitchen, c.1300 sqft plus 700 sqft south-facing roof terrace overlooking dock. Secure parking and private mooring.
O.I.E.O. £360,000.
Tel: 01473 827143.

WESTBOURNE TERRACE W2
2 bed split level maisonette with 2 roof terraces. Unmodernised. Long lease. £189,950.
No agents.
Phone 0181 348 5666

DOCKLANDS

WAPPING 2 bed 2 bath apartment with garden. Garage. £149,950 L/H. 0171 480 6815

FULHAM

[illegible] RD Freehold 2 bed 2 bath 17'8 lounge built kit/diner, 80' south facing gdn. £227,500 0171 385 7000.

[illegible] 3 bed house, 2 bath, conservatory, roof terrace. £269,000. 0171 386, 8070

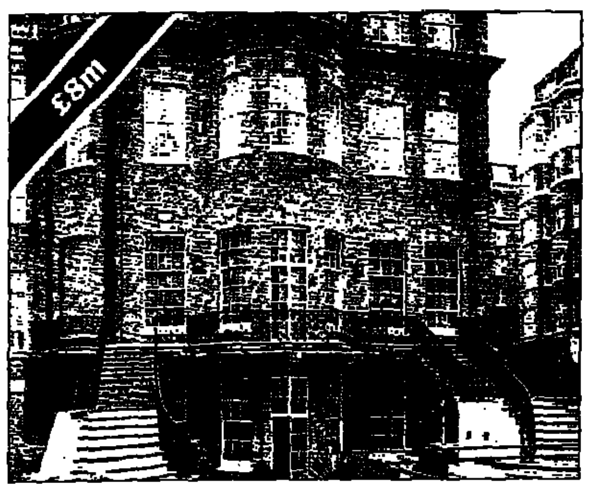
OUTSTANDING
4 bd, 2 bth (1 en-suite) family hse, situated between Fulham Palace Rd & the Thames, 1 min Bishops Pk. V lge dbl gdn. Immac cond throughout, lge newly hand made kit. Option to buy neighbouring grnd flr 2 bed flat with lge patio area, newly decorated & modernised throughout. £395,000 & £165,000.
Please call Mr Ross for viewings on 0171 573 6000/ 0370 555634 (m).
No agencies

HAMPSTEAD

HAMPSTEAD, NW3. Exceptional 3 bed, double recep maisonette/ house with patio gardens & conservatory. Parking for 2 cars. Opposite Heath £595,000. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

FOR SALE

FOR ENTERTAINING



LONDON: *Elgin House, Hill Street, Mayfair, W1. Grade II listed* building providing 16,700 sq ft of accommodation, including a grand staircase and four vast reception rooms opening onto a large west-facing garden and additional communal gardens. The property is currently made up of three office floors and four residential apartments. About £8 million for a *120-year lease* (De Groot Collis, 0171-235 8090).

OXFORDSHIRE: The Pusey Estate, near Faringdon. *Residential and agricultural estate in 1,585 acres,* with a Grade II* listed *Georgian house in classical gardens, parkland, farmland* and woodland. Main house with 12 bedrooms, seven bathrooms, five reception rooms (including a 54ft by 20ft drawing room), domestic offices, staff flat, billiard room, shoot room and a swimming pool complex. Farmhouse, stabling and 14 cottages. About £8.5 million (Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171 and Strutt & Parker, 0171-629 7282).

TYNE AND WEAR: Southend House, Whitburn. Refurbished Victorian mansion house with a leisure suite, set in four acres of mature landscaped gardens. Nine bedrooms, five bathrooms (one *en suite), four reception rooms, leisure suite with ballroom (43ft by* 24ft 3in), snooker room, bar and swimming pool complex. Stable block and garaging. About £750,000 (Savills, 01904 620731).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Home comforts abroad

Hotel bills are a thing of the past for many families who choose to enjoy holidays worldwide by swapping houses

MARTIN BEDDALL

Paul and Judith Stafford, above, with their children Florence and Joseph. Left, the house in Charleston, South Carolina, for which they swapped their home in Kingston, Surrey

Holidays abroad can be expensive and hotel life is not exactly homely. So before you book your next break, why not consider swapping your house with someone looking for a holiday in Britain?

House-swapping can be particularly attractive if you own a second home but would like a change from going there every year.

The idea of holidaying by swapping your home for another somewhere *else in the world sounds* appealing, however, many people *have reservations about the idea* — after all, a home is a very valuable asset.

There are several home exchange programmes in Britain, all of which operate on varying scales. Those that are particularly thorough in their attention to detail and small enough to keep control over their operations include Worldwide Home Exchange, founded in 1982. From 25 members in *its first year, it has grown to about* 1,500 now, covering 35 countries.

Two other small operations are Home Base Holidays, started in 1986 by Lois Sealy, and Intervac International, which was founded 40 years ago by the mother-in-law of the present owner, Rhona Nayar. Members pay an annual subscription which entitles them to a listing in the exchange directories, published three *times a year. (Worldwide Home* Exchange has two and a supplement, *and Intervac a late-exchange service.* Home Base has international linkages to other exchange clubs and programmes.)

Those who participate in home exchanges are mainly professional people, with or without children, and retired people. Homes vary but Ms Nayar says, "You don't have to have a *luxurious house to take part in a* swap. The main thing is that it is *warm and inviting.*"

Properties range from flats and *condominiums to houses, mansions* and estates, and people do not always want to swap like for like. One man swapped a large estate in Barbados for a one-bedroom apartment in Colorado. All he wanted was to ski.

Lecturers Paul and Judith Stafford, of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, have swapped their home three times with families in America through *Home Base. Mrs Stafford says:* "The first time we had a two-bedroom flat in Walthamstow, northeast London, which we swapped for a holiday home in Massachusetts near a lake, complete with canoe. We had a Fiat 127; the people we swapped with had a Space Cruiser."

The nature of the Staffords' work means that they can take long holidays, but with two children they *would find hotel bills over five or six* weeks prohibitive.

*"If you are saddled with a mort*gage, you might as well turn it into an asset and use it as a means to travel," Mrs Stafford says. "We might not bother with all the organisation involved if it was only for a two-week holiday, but for a longer time it is well worth it.

"Since we have had the children we have swapped with families with *children of a similar age, which is a* great advantage, because everything is set up for you — car seats, baby chairs, toys, books, babysitters."

All exchange organisers advise members to imagine being a visitor to their home when describing the region and what it offers in terms of interest and activities. Some exchanges in*clude cars, in which case the names of* your visitors can be added to your *insurance policy, and it is advisable* to let your insurers know that you have people staying (much better than leaving an empty house).

Exchange programmes advise on telephone bills, food shopping and wages for cleaners. Good ones also provide plenty of information to smooth out cultural differences and prevent confusion over plumbing and electricity. *One couple who went* to America flooded the house because *they didn't understand the automatic* sprinkler and plumbing system. If a house is damaged, offenders are immediately struck off the list. Some exchanges offer insurance against this happening but with small, well-organised exchange companies, these incidents are rare and companies such as Intervac and Worldwide report few "blacklistings".

Mrs Stafford says: "If people are *terribly worried about their valu*ables, I would say don't do it, but we just put away things like special glasses and treasured wedding presents. It is important to enter into detailed correspondence with the people you are swapping with, so that you feel comfortable about things.

"There have been minor problems. One family let plants die in the garden because they forgot to water, another time a child's buggy was broken, but these things seem very *unimportant when you weigh them* against the great holidays we had."

To increase the chances of acquiring your first preference, it is most important to apply early. Some destinations are more sought after than others; Italy and France, for instance, are always popular and America has become increasingly so. Three months is the ideal time to allow for planning, but this can be much shorter. The best strategy is to comb through a home-swap directory and start making contact with owners of homes in locations you are interested in. When *listing your* holiday location preferences, say the programme *organisers, it is best to be* flexible and open to suggestions. For *example,* if you are looking at America and someone from South Africa contacts you, always consider the possibility.

Another recommendation is for exchangers to meet, if possible, and many long-standing friendships have developed from this. Generally, home exchangers work hard to make visitors welcome. *On their return,* one English couple even threw a *party for their American exchangers* and invited everyone who had met *them* during their stay, including the postman and the milkman.

KERRYN BROOKER

FACT FILE

- Worldwide Home Exchange *Club (Milly Baer), 50 Hans Cresent,* London SW1X ONA (0171-823 9937); *annual subscription, £29.*
- Home Base Holidays (Lois Sealey), 7 Park Avenue, London N13 5PG (0181-886 8752, fax 0181-482 4258, e-mail 100522.2733@-compuserve.com); subscription varies up to £75.
- Intervac International (Rhona Nayar), 3 Orchard Court, North Wraxall, near Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7AD (01225 892208, fax 01225 892011, e-mail intervac.gb@msn.com); subscription £65.

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS ESTABLISHED 1872

WANDLE ROAD SW17

An outstanding Victorian semi-detached house with off-street parking and a delightful L-shaped garden facing south.

6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, cellar, cloakroom, balcony.

Freehold Price on Application

***WANDSWORTH:* 0181-871 3033**

LITTLE VENICE, W9 Lease to 2994 £550,000

In a new building close to the Regents Canal, a spectacular 6th floor penthouse with underground parking, maple wood floors and terracing. 3 bedrooms, 2 shower rooms, bathroom, 10.9m (35ft) open plan reception/dining room/kitchen, porterage.

ST. JOHNS WOOD: 0171-722 5556

JAMESON STREET W8

In a cherrytree-lined street in Kensington, a west facing *house with a* large roof terrace having panoramic views.

4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, yard.

***Freehold* £425,000**

KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

LONDON OFFICES		COUNTRY OFFICES	
BATTERSEA:	0171-228 0174	HEAD OFFICE:	0171-493 4106
BELGRAVIA:	0171-730 9854	CIRENCESTER:	01285 642244
CHELSEA:	0171-352 1484	EAST GRINSTEAD:	01342 326326
FULHAM:	0171-731 4223	FARNHAM:	01252 737115
KENSINGTON:	0171-727 0705	LYMINGTON:	01590 677233
MAYFAIR:	0171-408 0055	NEWBURY:	01635 523225
ST JOHN'S WOOD:	0171-722 5556	OXFORD	01865 311522
WANDSWORTH:	0181-871 3033	WINCHESTER:	01962 863131
WIMBLEDON:	0181-944 7172	HONG KONG:	00 852 2 872 5146

26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 8LD
0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071

LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT
To let your house or flat: Central London 0171-491 4311
North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447
***South of the M4* 01256 398004 *North of the M4* 01865 311522**

SURREY East Molesey

An attractive Victorian coach house, recently refurbished, in a popular location.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, 27ft reception room, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, landscaped garden, off-street parking.

Freehold Price Guide: £320,000

WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172

ELSLEY ROAD SW11

In the Shaftesbury Estate Conservation Area, an attractive, larger than average, Victorian cottage.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, garden.

Freehold £187,500

BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Minchinhampton

An appealing village house with lovely period features, situated close to the centre of *this popular village.*

4 bedrooms, *bathroom, cloakroom,* drawing room, dining hall, kitchen, garden, boot room.

***Price Guide:* £210,000**

JSA: Hamptons 01285 654535

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

HAMPSHIRE - Lymington Price Guide: £225,000

Probably one of the best penthouse flats for views overlooking the Lymington River, Yacht Clubs, The Solent and Isle of Wight. 2/3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sitting/dining room, kitchen, 2 roof terraces, studio/bedroom 3, lift/stairs, garage and off-street parking. Share of freehold.

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

HAMPSHIRE Itchen Stoke Near Alresford

A charming listed thatched cottage with a pretty garden and fine southerly views over a delightful valley.

3 bedrms, 2 bathrms, cloakrm/shower rm, 2 reception rms, kitchen, workshop, detached garage, parking, garden.

Price Guide: £247,500

WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأ[illegible]

HIGHBURY/ ISLINGTON

GARAGE YOUR CONVERTIBLE! CANONBURY CONSERVATION AREA, N1
Stunning 4 floor contemporary house, large det garage. 3 beds, 2 baths (1 en-suite), 2 recs + study. Immaculate / v.high spec. Delightful town gdn, balance of of NHBC.
£495,000 F/hold
Joint Sole Agents
0171 226 1010/0171 354 6224

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

EARLS COURT Charming 2 bed conversion apt. Large bright recep, kit/diner, small balcony. £155,000. 0171 221 9044

HOMESEARCH LONDON LTD. Let us search for you. London's No. 1 Specialist Search Company www.homesearch.co.uk/hom 0171 838 1066. Fax 838 1077

SW7 Patio (50ft) flat, 25ft recep, dining, kit, dbl & sngl bed, bath & 2 store rms. Needs mod. L/H £239,950. Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911t /0171 244 9838t

CHELSEA HARBOUR
Luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, apartment, dual aspect river views from large (34'x 30') Reception room, balconies on both sides. Porterage & Video entry system to flat. Secure underground parking with direct access to internal lifts. Available immediately furnished or unfurnished. £500,000.
01189 404046 (ansphone)

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

BEANEY PEARCE

CHELSEA HARBOUR
A wonderful riverside apartment with views down the River Thames. Dbl recep, kitchen, dbl bed, bath, terrace, 24hr porter/security, private parking. L/H. 115 yrs. £267,500

CULFORD GARDENS SW3
A spacious mansion flat within a few minutes walk of Sloane Sq. Drawing rm, dining rm/bed 3, kitchen, 2 beds, bath, shower.
L/H 107 yrs £395,000
0171 589 1333.

HOLLAND PARK W11
Luxury Newly converted 2 bedroom flats, approx 1000sqft each.
£350,000.
Day 0171 582 7766
Eves 0171 962 0057

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

KINGSTON Lux flat, 2 dble beds, lift, ent phone. £89,000 incl carp/curt. 01734 666470.

RICHMOND HILL Lge 4 bdrm flat, stunning views. Prvt pkg. Share f/h. £330,000. 0973 213516.

COUNTRY PROPERTY

HAMPSHIRE
SOUTHAMPTON WATERSIDE

SWAN QUAY

A DEVELOPMENT OF 24 ONE & TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS ALL WITH A MOORING AND BALCONY OR PATIO, GIVING VIEWS OVER THE RIVER.
HIGH SECURITY & LOW MAINTENANCE COSTS.
PRICES START FROM £77,950.
FOR A BROCHURE & DETAILS, CONTACT:

Show Apartment
01703 337709 or

FOX & SONS

Fox & Sons Land & New Homes
01703 234345.

BERKSHIRE

UPPER LAMBOURN Period det thatched cottage. Wealth of features. Sitting rm, kit/bk rm, 2 bed rm. Superb gardens. Views £155,000. Pilgrim Bond Ch Surveyors 01488 72911

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS
Spacious quiet det fam home in half acre. 4 bed, 2 bath, 3 recep + consvy. Paddington 30 mins. Good schools, golf, walks.
OIEO £295,000.
Tel: 01734 477249.

CHESHIRE

TARPORLEY
Attractive barn conversion, having stabling and land, with views across rolling country side, 4 beds, 3 bathrooms, drawing room, dining hall, snug beautiful kitchen with conservatory, OCH, triple garage, electric gates, set in about 3.75 acres.
£245,000.
Tel: 01829 760704
or 0831 288597

CORNWALL

POLPERRO
Detached bungalow, 1600 sq ft, set in 2 acres of terraced gdns & woodland with spectacular views of sea & village. Sth. facing, 3 dbl beds, kit/brkfst rm, laundry rm, lnge, bthrm. Suitable for conversion. Pvt drive, dble gge. in need of some restoration.
F/hold, £140,000.
0113 262 5164 (eves).

COTSWOLDS

BURFORD 5 miles. Well proportioned 2 bedroom apartment in converted stone manor house. Tennis court. 5 acres grounds. £110,000. Styles & Whitlock 01865 244637.

CUMBRIA

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO will find & secure your ideal home. Brochure 01624 762399.

DEVON

NEAR DARTMOUTH: a Charming Listed Regency house with pretty walled gardens & coastal sea views, set on the edge of a small village. £185,000. Village & Country 01392 499699

EXETER UNIQUE CHARACTER RESIDENCE
Close University, BR & City centre, 3/4 beds, dressing rm, 2 bthrms, art studio, 3 recs, bkfast rm, kit, utility.
£120,000.
01392 434924.

DEVON

STICKLEPATH, Dartmoor; a Character Mill House on the beautiful River Taw, a few yards walk to the Village & Moor (M5/A30 15 mins) £167,500 Village & Country 01392 499699

DORSET

RURAL HIDEAWAY Idillic cob & brick 3 bed cott in tranquil rural loc. Symp restored, trad des stable block & barn. OIRO £195,000 01722 335337.

BOURNEMOUTH
Eastcliff
Prestige block, frontline o'looking sea, 4th floor lux apt. SW sun balcony, 2 bd, 2 bath (1 e/s). Neville Johnson kit, 2nd balcony. lge lounge/diner, video entrance phone, secure underground parking. 8 yr NHBC guarantee, freehold (share) £164,950.
01985 847647 /
01373 465488.

POOLE
3 bedroomed flat
Salterns Marina, Sandbanks
Panoramic views,
Poole harbour and Blue lagoon. Lift, large L shaped Lounge/ Diner, 2 bathrooms, 1 ensuite West facing balcony. Basement garage, lock-up store.
£239,950.
Tel: 0181 866 0921

ESSEX

WOODFORD GREEN
Newly refurbished 5 bed, 5 bath, 5 rec Huge kit/ breakfast room, 52ft games room. Swimming pool. Double garage
£415,000 F/H
Tel: 0181 491 9507

HAMPSHIRE

MAGNIFICENT recently constructed country residence with gardens, grounds and paddock land. Set in picturesque New Forest village. £595,000. Littlewoods 01425 614162.

CHERITON
Village location, 6 miles East Winchester / M3, on the edge of the downs. Immaculate Brick & Flint fronted house, ideal family accommodation. 4 beds, fine bathrm, country kitchen, 3 recepts, high quality fittings throughout. Dble garage, sunny garden. Very good village school, pub and shops. £220,000 no chain. 01962 771770 www.geocities.com/Athens/3469

HAYLING ISLAND
HAMPSHIRE
Grade II listed, large thatched cottage, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3 receptions, kitchen, utility room. Separate barn converted to office/ granny annex. Beautiful landscaped gardens. Garaging for 3 cars. Convenient for mainline station - Waterloo 70 mins.
£275,000.
Tel. 01785 469138

HAMPSHIRE

RURAL, N. Hampshire. 4 bdrm det., conserv, 3 recs, kit/brkfst rm, lge gdn, pvt drive, overlooking open farmland. M4, M3 within easy reach. £190,500. 01256 882406.

KENT

WALTHAM, Nr Canterbury. Superb conv. chapel of great character. 3 recept., 4 beds, bath, 2 shwr, gallery, custom kitchen, ½ acre. £235,000. Dwiquest Ltd 01622 817999

NEAR SEVENOAKS
Idyllic countryside location for five sympathetically designed new homes. 5-7 beds, conservatory, inglenook fireplace, plots from ¼ acre, triple garage. Stunning views. Price guide from £500,000. Showhome open Fri - Mon.
MILLWOOD DESIGNER HOMES
TEL: 01732 811400/770881

LAND FOR SALE

ISLINGTON, N1. Suits: 1 large house or 2 townhouses or 4 flats. Offers invited. 0181 349 9839 or 0831 593030

LEICESTERSHIRE

GREAT GLEN
Stable conversion. 3 double bedrooms, 1 en-suite. Granny annexe providing a 4th bedroom with shower and toilet. Walled garden, courtyard parking for 4 cars. Original beams, 33ft living room.
£175,000.
Tel: Mr & Mrs Hutchins on
01162 593869 or
0171 353 9942.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

WEEDON Lge village. 3 mls M1. School, shops. Individ design spac home. 3-4 beds, 2 bath, 2 recep, kit, pantry, cloaks, utility, mature gdn, dble gge, parking for sev cars. £140,000. Tel: 01327 340169.

SOMERSET

RODNEY STOKE. Bristol C. 22 miles, Wells C. 5 miles. Period farmhouse, 3 receptions, 5 bedrooms, 2 s/c annexes. Range of outbuildings, c.12 acres, edge of village. £245,000. 01749 676067 or 01373 462999

SUFFOLK

LOWESTOFT. CORTON.
Fully burglar alarmed, 3 beds, modern detached house. GCH. Large lounge: Separate dining room, study, fully equipped large kitchen/ Breakfast room, pantry, utility, very large sun/ snooker room leading to over ½ acre lovely gardens. Double garage (automatic door), integrated workshop. Opposite open farmland. Sea & golden sands at end of road. Quick sale (Vendor recently widowed) £182,000.
Tel: 01603 259063 or 01502 730110 (preferably after 6.00pm).

GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE
Total restoration to very high standard. 5/6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, including self contained annexe. Set in open countryside. Stowmarket area. Easy access to BR & A14
01449 781227
POA

SURREY

IMPOSING Country house in 1 acre on Worplesdon golf course. Offers £625K Tel: 01276 20111

Charming listed cottage
Conservation area, close shops, M/Line station, hall, open-plan living area, oak beams, log fire, kitchen, 2 dble beds, 2 baths (1 en-suite), Gas CH, lovely terraced gardens with croquet lawn. Parking. Guide £125,000 Freehold.
01428 654202

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES
BRAND NEW TOWN HOUSE
(10 year NHBC)
Only yards from river walk and market place in quiet cul-de-sac. Large flexible accomm. 3 beds, 2 baths, potential bedrm 4 / study, large fully fitted kitchen / breakfast, lounge / diner, fully fitted utility, cloakroom, double integral garage, garden. To include new carpets, curtains and appliances.
£225,000 one for quick sale.
01372 466333

W SURREY
NR GODALMING
New 2 bed luxury cottage in courtyard setting. Facilities include floodlit tennis courts, indoor pool, 50 acres grounds, security gates, garage, fitted kitchen.
For sale: £157,500
Tel: 0171 493 0676 (T)
Tel: 01483 417222 (T)

SUSSEX

Nr EASTBOURNE Modern cottage tastefully furnished, built 1966. 2 beds would sleep 6, ample parking space. £45,000 Mr Tibbles on 01323 843481.

WALES

PEMBROKESHIRE
A tastefully restored double glazed, 19th century house in historic town, within 3 miles of the coast. 3 double bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, dining room, FF kitchen, cellar & small walled garden. GCH. Ideal as family home or holiday property. No chain.
£48,500
01646 686297

SUSSEX

NR EAST GRINSTEAD-W.SUSSEX
Grade II, pristine
16th century house
Edge of Ashdown Forest
5 bedrooms(3 ensuit), s/ c flat
converted barn + garages
H. Pool, t/ court, stables, 12 acres
50 minutes Victoria
Pvt viewing 3, 4, 10, 11 May
10- 12am and 2-4pm £750,000
Enquiries 0410 328819

WALES

1 YEAR old 4 bed bungalow, NHBC, large garden, lovely views, 5 miles Fishguard, £100,000. 01348 840753.

WARWICKSHIRE

COTSWOLDS BORDER
Luxuriously appointed spacious 2nd floor apartment situated in a fine country home of historical interest with magnificent views. 2 double beds, bath/shwr, large lounge, lux FF kit/diner, reception hall & landscaped gardens with tennis court. Ideal as Pied-a-terre for mobile professional
Offers £110,000 93yr LH
01789 778211

WORCESTERSHIRE

WORCESTERSHIRE/ WARWICKSHIRE BORDER
Substantial Architect designed Cotswolds Stone house. South West elevated position. River frontage, 7 acres, 6 beds, 2 baths, 4 receptions, double garage. planning permission for new garage/stable block.
£445,000
01789 778043
01789 773245 (24hrs/fax).

YORKSHIRE

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO will find & secure your ideal home. For a brochure ring N & E Yorks 01653 690007, S Yorks & Peaks 0114 268 2533

HOLMFIRTH
Detached country property set in 5 acres. 3 receps, usual offices, master suite, 2 further bedrooms, bathroom, s/c flat, 6 stables, tack & feed rooms. Easy access to M1/M62 & major cities.
£290,000.
Tel/Fax:
01484 689466.

MORTGAGES

MORTGAGE REFUSED ? We say yes to arrears ccj, Bankrupts - No accounts 01663 764836

PROPERTY WANTED

IRELAND - Wanted Landlords selling rent controlled houses. Tel 00353 1 677 6108. Fax 00353 1 679 4392.

BALEARICS

MALLORCA Beautiful properties in all areas. £95k-£2million. 0181 477 5050 (24hrs)

MENORCA CALA GALDANA
3 bedrmd. f/furn, superb pos'n o'looking the beautiful bay. Lng/din rm, ftt kit, bodega, utility rm & bthrm. 1 owner & new. Personal use only. Everything inc. for quick sale. £60k.
0151 342 4591 (o)/
7665 (h);
fx 0151 342 1130.

CANARY ISLANDS

TENERIFE Vast sale F/H apts & villas, new/resale, £50k-£800k. Superb positns. 01202 311315

CARIBBEAN

CAYMAN ISLANDS
Superb selection of properties, many Ocean Front, on these lovely islands.
Prices from £150,000 to in excess of £1 million.
Details from Cayman Caribbean Properties Ltd.
Tel: 01242 - 572654
Fax: 01242 - 222665.

FRANCE

AUVERGNE Fully renovated det. house. Secluded valley. Nr. swimming, tennis, lakes, skiing. FF 370,000. 01388 488315.

BRITTANY For sale one of the premier properties in Langoëlan. Registered as a Centre d'Hébergement offering a home and income, comprising a 5 bedroom manoir with wing, used at present as a language centre with accommodation for up to 48 English students. Sale due to recent bereavement. For quick sale, offers based on £160,000. Apply for details from the Proprietors, L'Ancienne Ecole, 56160 Langoëlan, France

COTES DU RHONE Huge rebuilt farmhouse, 5 beds, 4 baths, fabulous views, fully equipped lge kit, CH. 0171 2624039

COUNTRY HOUSES To Chateaux, Apts to Villas. Brochure avail. Tel Latitudes 0181 958 5485

FRENCH ALPS. Ski apartments from £30k. Brochure, photos. Beaches Int. 01562 885181

PALAVAS 2 bed house on complex with pool meramine, lounge, kitchen, shower, toilet, small garden. 7km Mont Pellier. 7km airport. 5 minutes Mediterranian. Fully furnished. £48,000. Tel: 01159 289484

PROVENCE
Country House near St Remy de Provence and Les Baux. Living room, kitchen, cloaks, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, studio and garage. 6 acres of land with pines, cypresses and olive trees, garden, swimming pool, out buildings, private sale. 3.65 million FFr.
Contact Antoine Ruchet.
Tel: 0033 4 90 905219.

FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION
ADMISSION FREE
AROUND 60 EXHIBITORS
2ND, 3RD, 4TH MAY 1997
FRI. 11.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SAT. 10.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SUN. 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM
THE ROYAL BATHS
HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE
Organised by FPN
2a Lambton Road, London SW20 0LR. Telephone: 0181 944 5500
BRITAINS BIGGEST & BEST EXHIBITIONS FOR HOMES IN FRANCE

ITALY

ITALY - For sale in Tuscany south of Siena, exceptional 17thC restored farmhouse. 4 bedrooms, 3 acres, barn, large pool. Contact owner tel 0039 578 58201. Fax 58225. Price 900.000 USA dollars.

LARGE Tuscan farmhouse on the southern edge of ancient Chianti Classico hamlet. Siena 25 minutes, Florence airport 1 hr. Pisa airport 1hr 45 min. Currently divided onto four self-contained flats with a total of five bedrooms and four bathrooms. Land of approx 2 hectares including large garden & pool, with possibility to plant olive grove or vineyard for family use. Suitable for use as extended family holiday house or as small business venture. Price £490,000. Contact Mr Naesch (owner) 0041 523 551212. Fax 0041 523 561232

TUSCANY 4 acres, fab views, mod kit, lrngh liv rm, 3 bth, 4 bd, CHRW, £250K. 0181 748 8265

TUSCANY
A superb, rambling, multi-level, 17th C hill village property in Lunigiana - the unspoiled part of Tuscany. Lovingly restored from the original small holdings in the 'Borgo'. Great atmosphere-chestnut beams, terracotta & stone floors, 2 terraces, 4 beds, 2 baths, living, dining, kit, cellar (taverna), c'ryard & vines. Tranquil view across rolling hills. Good investment at
£105,000.
Tel: 01483 421218
(24 hrs).

TUSCANY
2 properties in countryside, 10Km coast, 20Km Pisa airport. 4 beds, lge sitting rm, 2 kits, 2 baths- 300sq m+1000sq m gdn: £260k.
2 beds, lge sitting rm, kit, bathrm,- 156sq m+300sq m gdn: £150k.
Both properties + additional 45,000sq m land: £555k.
T: +39 58 553293 F:553149

PORTUGAL

ALGARVE - Homes with distinction architecturally designed, superbly constructed in locations to suit. Contact Portogun tel 0181 810 0785 UK or Fax 00351 82 341285 P.

ALGARVE Golf properties - Vale do Lobo, Quinta do Lago, Vila Sol, Carvoeiro Golf plus properties from Almancil to Lagos new and resale. Prime property Int. 01628 778841

CENTRAL PORTUGAL
Alentejo Region.
7 bed farmhouse, fully modernised, 40 hectares. cork, olives, eucalyptus. Large swimming pool, changing rooms etc. Stabling and tack room, menage, paddocks. 2 cottages inc. caretakers. Breathtaking views
£275,000. Immed. sale.
01892 547207.

LITTLE VENICE MAIDA VALE. 2 BED WHITE STUCCO CONV. ON PICTURESQUE CANAL.

SPAIN

COSTA BLANCA Javea, Moraira, Jalon, Torrevieja. Villas / Apts. IPC 01323 899204

DENIA Stylish town house, 3 beds, 3 baths / shower (2 ensuite), solarium, verandah, huge pool, Golf La Sella, tennis, squash, riding. £64,900. 0121 455 0440 H, 0121 456 2208 O

JAVEA/MORAIRA £35k-£300k New & resale. Broch & photos Beaches Int. 01562 885181

MARBELLA Superb range of property £70,000 to £1,000,000 Tel 01562 885181 for brochures

MARBELLA Lux holiday ownership. FREEHOLD. 1-2 wks for life. Fr £2,160. 01202 311315

MARBELLA Vast selection of lux villas & apts. New & resale. Prime positions 01202 311315

SPAIN EXCLUSIVE Golf, Country Club & Beach properties. 2 championship courses. £40K - £135K 0181 477 5050 (24hrs)

ANDALUCIAN FARMHOUSE
Orig. finca in 22 acres of olive & almond groves with good wine producing grapes. 1 hr E of Malaga, 30 mins coast. Restored hse, 3 beds, 2 baths, courtyard, terrace with pool, Spring & mains water. Electricity. Possible development or just enjoy peace & tranquility. Priced to sell
£165,000.
0118 9760296.

BENIDORM
New studios. 1/2/3 Bedroom Apts. with Ocean views set in lovely communal gdns, 5 mins walk from La Cala Beach.
Prices from £27,500 to £62,700.
New Properties also at Torrevieja.
Contact C.C.Properties.
Tel: 01242 - 572654
Fax: 01242 - 222665

USA

FLORIDA HOMES Orlando and Gulf Coast. Guaranteed rental schemes. FPC 01202 884460

FRANCE

LONDON RENTALS

ASHBURN place SW7, bright 1/ 2 bed flat over looking gardens, £375pw. Tel: 01672 563571 or 0171 384 2519

BARBICAN EC2 Superb 1 bed penthouse £325pw. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

BATTERSEA VILL. Art 1 bed furn flat in portered block, £175pw inc Htg & HW. 0171 936 2228

BRAND NEW SE1 County Hall 2 bed flat, 2 bath with view, luxury furn, pking, gym, pool. £320 pw. 07050 616 197

BUTLERS WHARF SE1 Stunning 2 bed 2 bath lux apt. Unique views to Tower Bdge. £1000pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

GLOUCESTER TERRACE W2
Newly refurbished 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, furnished apartment on the 1st floor with balcony.
Available now.
£495 pw.
CARLYLE PROPERTIES LTD
Tel:0171 485 4383
Fax:0171485 4374

SOHO ESTATES TO LET
Luxury apartments in The Heart of the West End's Theatre Land
1 & 2 bedroom Available.
2 locations
3/5 Bateman St & 5/6 Coventry St
Prices ranging from £500pw - £800pw
For Appointments & Further Details, Please telephone Paul Whalen on 0171 292 8000

LONDON RENTALS

CENTRAL nr Regents Park W1. Lux portered furn flat, d/bed, rec, kit, bathrm, £275pw inc. Sh/med let. Company enquiry welcome. 0171 935 1946

CHELSEA tastefully decorated studio flat nr shops, restaurants, public transport, £205pw, min 6 months. Tel: 0171 602 5435 or 0585 541726 (m) no agents.

CHELSEA SW10 F Flat db bed l, k, b, wc, patio, CHWCH. £230pw TEL: 0171 373 3428.

CITY EC4 1 bed. All amenities. £300per week. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

CITY lux lge new 2 & 3 bd 2 bth FF gym pkg Nr Tube Fr £320 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

E17 Elegant lux designer 1/2 bedroom 2nd floor flat. FF kit £540 pm Tel: 0181 491 0995.

HAMMERSMITH Lux lge 2 bd 2 bth FF sec pkg Porr Nr Tube £330 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

HOLLAND PARK 1 dble bed mod newly refurb apt. Balc, Seagrass flrs. £250 pw. 0171 221 9044

HYDE PARK SQ. 2 dble bed, 2 bath/shower mod furn flat. Recep, gas fire, Comm & pvt gdn £500 pw Neg. 0171 221 2461

HYDE PARK large 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 recep flat. Semi furn. £450 pw. Excel Homes 0171 724 9919

ISLINGTON N1 Stunning 2 recep, 4 bed Town House w/f. £650pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

KEN W8 Mod dec 2 dble bed flat 2 bth (1 e/s) rec f/f w/m/d Nr tube £270 pw 07050 616 197 t

LITTLE VENICE W9 2 bed, 2 bath 2 recep flat. Unf. lge high ceilings. £450 pw. 0171 724 9919

MARBLE ARCH 2 min lux lge 3 bd 3 bth FF Nr Tube £525 pw City Lets Int 0171 488 1458

MAYFAIR W1, furnished 2 bed duplex flat lounge, dinning rm, conservatory and patio. 6/ 12 mths. £575pw. Tel: 0041 22 7522400 or 0171 629 1727

LONDON RENTALS

NW8 Studio flat, fully furnished, f f kit. 5 mins tube. £700pcm. Tel: 0171 266 0760

PHILBEACH GDNS Well furn grd/1st flr mais. 2 lge recep, 1 study/bedrm, 2 dbl, 1 single bedrm, 2 baths, 65ft gdn. £450pw. 0171 3734265.

PIMLICO Detached 4 bed 3 bath house on River. Terrace, prkg gge. £795 pw 0171 221 9044

LONDON RENTALS

SLOANE SQ. 2 dbl bdrm 4th flr furn flat with lift. £300pw exc. bills. 0171 351 4717.

ST KATHS DK V.lux lge 2 bed 2 bth pkg O/L River Nr tube £325 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

SW3 Hse + gdn Unf, 2/3 beds, dble/2 rec, 2 bath, clk. £750 pw ALSO 1 bed base flt patio. £295 pw. Ironsides 0171 581 5877

SPAIN

Marina Puente Romano is a rare opportunity to live in a development set in a choice of three exotic gardens. Situated along the beach front between Marbella and Puerto Banús, the development is adjacent to the world famous 5 star Hotel Puente Romano and the Manolo Santana Tennis Club. The finest materials have been used and every appliance is installed to make life a pleasure. Marina Puente Romano also offers a range of services that would flatter a five star hotel.
It all makes Marina Puente Romano a unique "24 carat" development.

For more information and a brochure please call:
MARINA PUENTE ROMANO
(UK) Tel: 0181 754 8696
(SPAIN) Tel: + (34 5) 282 58 52

MARINA PUENTE ROMANO

LONDON RENTALS

SWISS COTTAGE 2 bright dbl bed flat. Spac rec new dec kit w/m/d garage, elegant furn. £330 pw inc heat. 07050 616 197 t

SW4 very large 3/ 4 double bedroom house available now in Clapham. F/F, FGCH, W/M. £270pwk. Call 0958 300622 anytime. Refs required.

SW1 VINCENT SQ. Westminster Lux lge brd new 2 & 3 bed 2 bth FF sec pkg Nr Tube Fr £350 pw City Lets Int 0171 488 1458

TWR BGE V.lux lge new 2 bd 2 bth view Riv & Bge £300-500 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

W14. Bright top floor family house, quiet person. Near tube. £125 pw. 0171 603 5091

W14. Quiet luxurious 2 bedroom townhouse, gdn, pkg. 5 mins tube. £280 pw. 0181 748 2442

W14 quiet person offered free basement for loving care small garden. Tel: 0171 6035091.

COUNTRY RENTALS

CAMBRIDGE City property, ideal for commuter. New high spec 5 bed riverside house with mature trees & mooring. Maple floors. Secure by Design award. £3,000 pcm incl. gardening service. Call 01638 578477.

SUFFOLK
Large 7 bed period country house. 4 bathrms, large heated indoor pool, games rm, jacuzzi, disco etc., garages , large garden, well secured. Furnished or unfurnished. Fully equipped with all mod cons
Long or short term let
Price by negotiation
Tel: 01842 815520.

WEST SUSSEX.
Part of an exceptionally fine Edwardian Country House with heated squash court and immaculate grass tennis court. Entrance hall, drawing-rm, study, dining rm, kitchen/breakfast rm, 5 beds, Huge attic studio. 2 bathrooms. All principal rooms face south overlooking approx. 2 acres of landscaped gardens. Available from 1st June part/unfurnished for 2 to 3 year let. £2,300 pcm.
Tel/Fax for colour brochure or viewing: 01243 543394

EAST SUSSEX
Immaculate farmhouse in idyllic rural position surrounded by woodland & lakes. Finished to highest standard, carpets & curtains. 3 recep, b/fast rm, 4 bed, 2 bath. £400/week. Min let 1 year.
01825 872265

RETIREMENT HOMES

Change your view of retirement - visit a Courtyard today

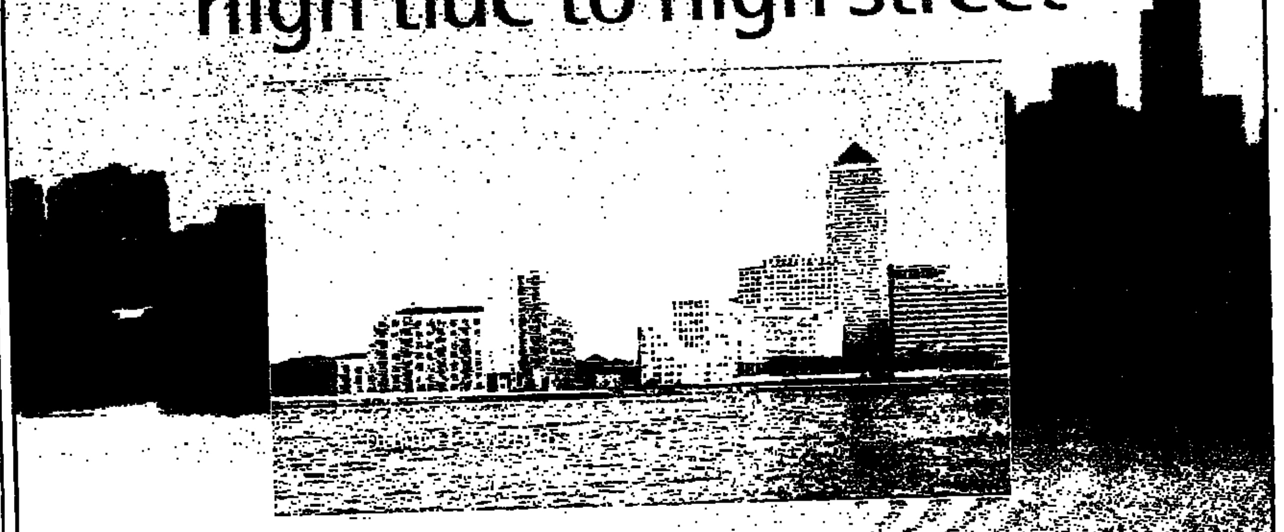
in retirement housing, English Courtyard lead the way, not least with beautifully landscaped gardens and very spacious houses & flats so you can really relax in your retirement. For nearly twenty years, English Courtyard have built some of the finest properties in many of the prettiest market towns and villages throughout England.

GO AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE TODAY
Prices from £152,500 to £220,000 in
Cheshire, Essex, Surrey, Warwickshire & West Sussex.
8 Holland Street, Kensington, W8 4LT
Freephone 0800 220858 for priority viewing and further details quoting ref NPC
English Courtyard

LONDON PROPERTY

DUNDEE WHARF

For people who prefer high tide to high street



Five luxury 4 bedroom town houses with integral garages and gardens

Surrounded by water on three sides, with world class river [illegible]wards Tower Bridge and Greenwich, and adjacent to Canary Wharf, Dundee Wharf is one of the last great residential developments on the River Thames.

The final phase of this highly acclaimed development, designed by the leading architectural practice, Campbell, Zogolovitch, Wilkinson and Gough comprises five 3 storey town houses.

Fitted to the highest specification the houses have two bathrooms, utility room, cloakroom and a large living room occupying the entire first floor. Residents also have full use of the developments extensive private leisure facility.

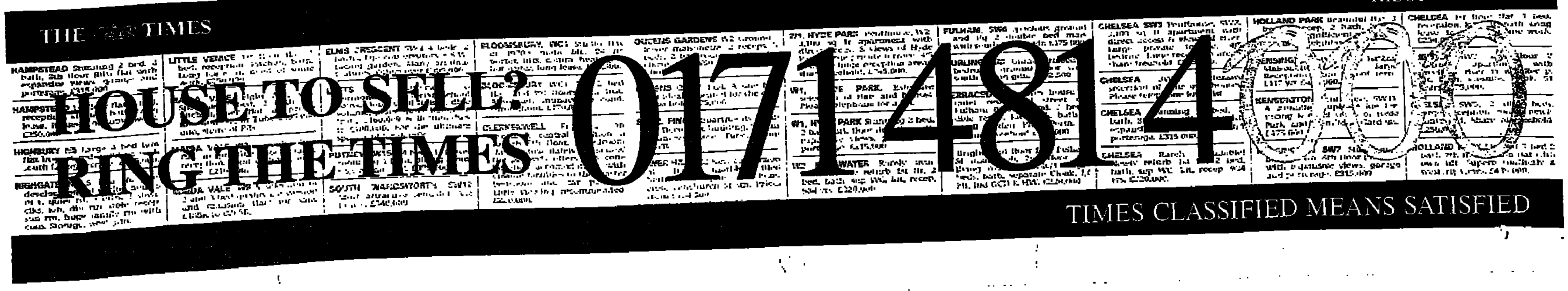
FOR SALE, FREEHOLD FROM
£225,000 to £260,000

SAVILLS
INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
0171 488 9586

ASAP
ALAN SELBY & PARTNERS HOLDINGS LIMITED
0171 613 3055

Developer
BALLYMORE
http://www.ba[illegible]

Prices and availability, correct at time of going to publication.

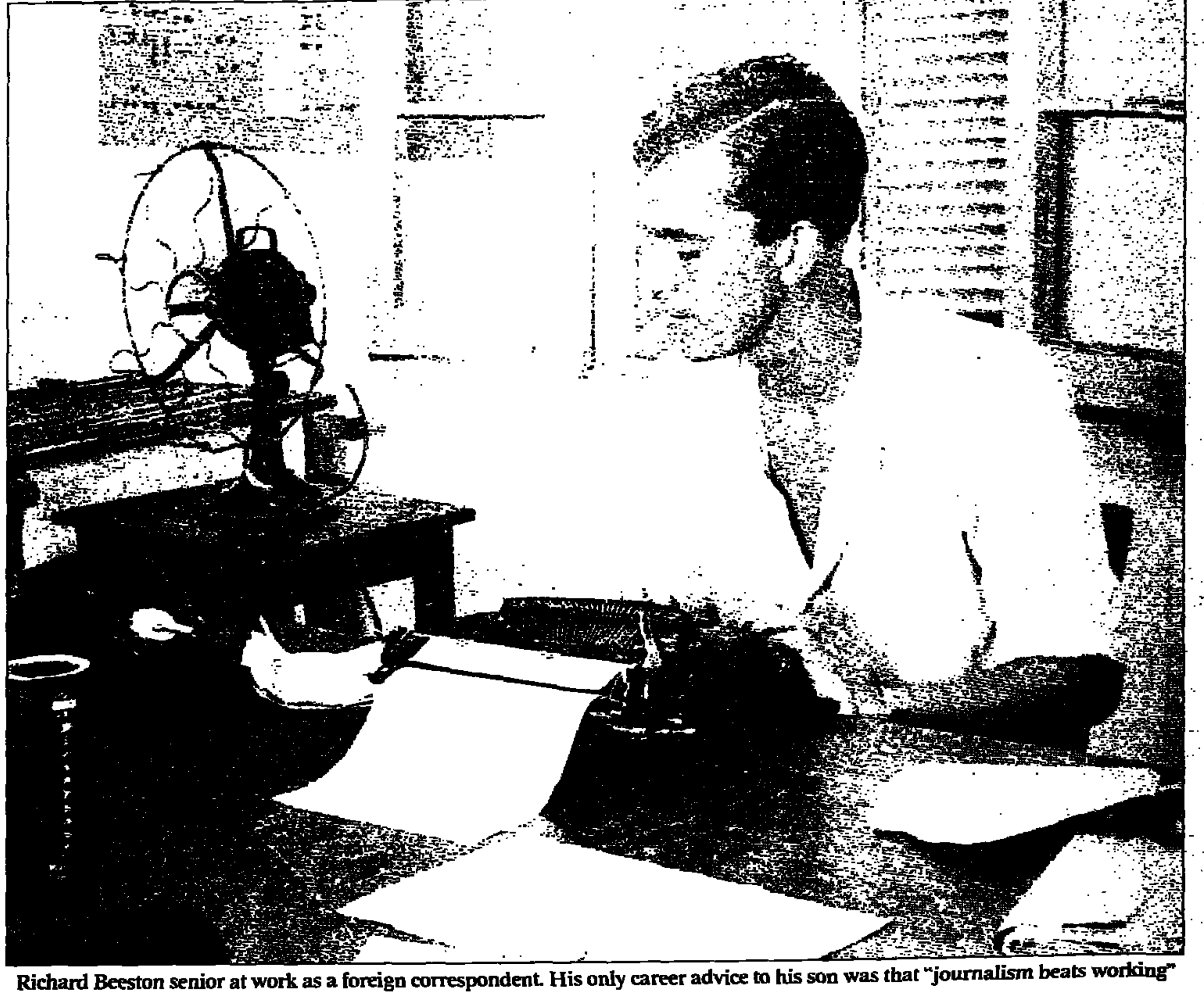


Following in father's footsteps

Richard Beeston may have wanted to go his own way but journalism was in his blood

JENNIFER BEESTON

Like father, like son: the two Richards both became correspondents



Richard Beeston senior at work as a foreign correspondent. His only career advice to his son was that "journalism beats working"

The veteran Middle East correspondent paused for a moment, averted his eyes from the bland Iraqi landscape passing our taxi window, and examined my face closely through a pair of smudged glasses.

"You did say Richard Beeston?" he asked, a puzzled look on his face. "The first time I visited Baghdad about 30 years ago I was also travelling with a Richard Beeston. He's not your father, is he?"

At this point it dawned on the unfortunate journalist that he had spent half of his life chasing wars and coup attempts over the barren Iraqi desert, so I did not have the heart to tell him that I was actually born during that first trip to Baghdad. In fact, my mother named me after my father in desperation. He was out of contact for the first weeks of my life and could not be consulted on my Christian name.

While the backdrop to this taxi conversation, at the height of the Gulf War in 1991, was more memorable than most, there are countless other times when my name has triggered similar responses around the globe. A barman in Beirut, a diplomat in Islamabad, a spy in Washington and journalists in just about every corner of the world greet me with fond memories of my father's exploits, tinged with remorse that those days of telex machines, lunchtime martinis and Cold War skulduggery are behind them.

Dicky, as he is known by his friends, his children and even his grandchildren, belongs to that generation of foreign correspondents who modelled themselves on the humorous, cynical and self-deprecating characters in Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*. Before the advent of satellite telephones, cable television and the Internet, they were the shock troops of news reporting in a period now regarded as a golden age of print journalism.

As a boy growing up in Africa, the Middle East, America and Russia it never occurred to me that I would one day follow in my father's footsteps. Seen through the eyes of a child, the work of a foreign correspondent never really seemed serious. Pilots flew planes, soldiers went to war and cops caught robbers. But foreign correspondents never appeared to do that much. Occasionally, there would be a call in the middle of the night followed by the frantic sound of a clattering telex machine. But the rest of the time seemed to be spent listening to the BBC World Service, playing tennis and packing in a hectic schedule of lunches, drinks parties and dinners. And my father rarely delivered any career advice, except to boast that "journalism beats working".

When he returned from a stint covering the Vietnam War, I was more interested in the exotic Vietnamese peasant that he brought home than any stories about the conflict. When he covered the dramatic disintegration of the Nixon Presidency, my only memories were of travelling down to Miami in the White House press plane for an unscheduled beach holiday, thanks to the American leader's regular meetings with Bebe Rebozo, his millionaire crony in the Florida Keys.

Even at school, I never thought of myself as having a glamorous father until my media-conscious headmaster, neatly side-stepping my chequered school career, began introducing me to the parents of prospective students, with the opening line: "Richard's father is the *Telegraph*'s man in Moscow."

More than a decade ago, when I went into journalism myself, I did so intent on making my own way and allowing the news and Fleet Street to dictate the course of my career. But, on reading my father's memoirs, *Looking for Trouble: The Life and Times of a Foreign Correspondent*, I am left with the uncanny feeling that some unseen editorial deity is guiding me along the well-trodden path that my father took.

My opening into journalism cannot have been more accidental. I answered a tiny notice in the *UK Press Gazette* advertising for journalists needed for a small English-language newspaper in Beirut.

A week later I found myself in the middle of a civil war, which had just reignited following the withdrawal of the last US Marines. My father had covered the first disturbances, between many of the same groups in Lebanon, in 1958 when the US Marines had landed with more success.

Later, during the Iran-Iraq war I reported on the terrible chemical weapons attack on an Iraqi Kurdish village, while my father had broken the story of poison gas used by the Egyptians on villages during the conflict in the Yemen.

Today, as I write about post-Soviet Russia for *The Times* from Moscow, where the health of the Kremlin leader and the problem of corruption still provide a steady flow of stories, I am often reminded of the period in the late 1970s when my father covered the final days of the Brezhnev era.

What separates us, is that my father was a foreign correspondent for more than 30 years of revolutions, wars and elections. Quite apart from the major events he covered, he also endured the less glamorous side of the work. Behind the stories are the thousands of miles spent in bone-rattling taxis, the hours of dictating copy across crackling phone lines, the negotiations with obstructive officials for visas and the endless battles with censorship.

His stamina is amazing. The prospect of another 20 years on the road certainly fills me full of dread and even has me worried about the future of my own children.

My son — born in Jerusalem, christened in Rome and schooled in Moscow — is already showing the first dangerous symptoms of the journalism bug. He calls me excitedly every time President Yeltsin's motorcade drives past our flat in Moscow. When he visits my office he instinctively begins bashing out letters on an old portable typewriter, not unlike the one used by my father.

For now, though, he stands firm in his commitment to become an engine driver. Jack's saving grace may be that he is not called Richard Beeston.

● *Looking for Trouble: The Life and Times of a Foreign Correspondent by Richard Beeston will be published by Brassey's in June, price £19.95.*

Jill Parkin on what became of the dogs in the adoption column

Whatever happened to Banjo and Louie?

Every week, a pair of give-me-a-home eyes looks out from this page. Hopes are raised and heartstrings are tugged. But where are they now, those pets who appeared in our weekly adoption column?

We've traced a few of them to find out how they and their new owners have settled down. Adopted dogs are likely to be surprise packets, but our random selection found nothing but wagging tails.

In the past five months, Ben, a 12-year-old collie cross who was rescued by the National Canine Defence League after being dumped on the seafront at Worthing, West Sussex, has grown used to a fine lifestyle, with town and country homes. He was adopted by Sir Peregrine and Lady Rhodes, who looked at two dogs pictured side by side in an October issue of Weekend and chose the less attractive one.

Sir Peregrine, a retired ambassador, says: "Ben isn't a handsome dog. He's rather lopsided, one ear up and other one down, and he's pretty deaf. We knew no one would choose him, so we decided to give him a home.

"He was a bit disoriented, nervous and shaky, but he's settled down well. He puts up with the journey from London to Suffolk and loves running around there. He's grateful and happy."

Louie the lurcher cross bounces about the countryside around Stella Smith's converted barn in Warbleton, Sussex. He was the only one of his litter left at the RSPCA in Willesden, north London, where they described him as "boisterous and overexcited at times". When Mrs Smith adopted him in February he was seven months old with what she calls "bad habits".

There is no doubt that dog lovers are a breed apart. Mrs Smith says: "He was a terrible biter. He bit me quite a few times. I just kept telling him 'no', and he stopped. I didn't smack him, because I don't believe in smacking dogs."

Danny, seven years old and 65lb of what seems to be mixed labrador and alsatian, is Christine Rexworthy's first rescue dog. She says: "It's true you never know what you're taking on. You have to be cautious, especially if you have young children. But it has been tremendous.

"Danny was quite frightened and didn't know how to bark when he came here. He now barks and is an incredibly good guard dog. And he's the best Frisbee player in the world," she says.

Norvin and Janice Simpson, who run a hire and repair shop in Surrey, have two daughters, aged eight and six. They now also have Banjo, an eight-year-old alsatian cross who was abandoned covered in fleas and in poor health.

Mrs Simpson says: "He suits us very well because he's not too frisky. He's been well trained already and he is very placid. He has made himself at home. We've been lucky. The children wanted a dog and Banjo is just right for the girls."

Vera Mercer, of Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, has just retired from teaching. Freedom was what she expected. Then she saw Flo and Vi, aged ten and 11. They are mother and daughter collie crosses. A notice attached to their quarters at the RSPCA in Leybourne, Kent, said "Can you give us a home in our twilight years?"

Vera showed the picture to her husband Brian and their daughter Caroline, because Flo, the daughter dog, looks so much like their previous dog. "I was trying to be practical and thinking of all the reasons against having a pair of hounds. But when we went to have a look, they were half the size we expected. Vi thinks of herself as a recycled teenager and wants to play; Flo is the beautiful one and preens herself all the time.

"This wasn't what I'd planned for my retirement. But we have no regrets and we haven't had a minute's trouble."

Corrie, a collie alsatian cross aged somewhere between nine and 12, didn't so much tug on the heartstrings as worry them to breaking point. At least, that's what Karen Trueman felt.

"It was the fact that he'd been in the kennels so long," says Miss Trueman, of Gravesend in Kent, who adopted him in October. "He'd been waiting seven years for a home. I thought 'I must have him'. He'd come in as a stray. He's really friendly, and he came running up to me, his tail wagging. You wouldn't believe he'd been in there so long. He's still really trusting and loving."

● *Next weekend, May 3-4, will see the first Pet Adoptathon in more than 1,200 animal rescue centres in Europe, America and Canada. For details of your nearest participating rescue centre call the Adoptathon Hotline on 0541 505061.*

PETER TRIEVNOR

KNP

Sir Peregrine and Lady Rhodes with Ben (left) and Karen Trueman with Corrie

ADOPT ME

Jessica loves treats

JESSICA has been spoilt in the past and will be a lovely dog once she learns she can't always have her own way. She loves treats, so can be bribed using tasty morsels. Food can also be introduced in conjunction with toys to make them more exciting, teaching her to play on her own. It's like having a puppy, only bigger. Contact the Battersea Dogs' Home, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 (0171-622 3626).

A VET WRITES

Q Two years ago, my black cat, Heidi, was stung on her back by a wasp. She was very distressed at the time, but my vet assured me she would settle down. But ever since she has had awful bouts of twitching, running round the house trying to lick her back.

The vet blames fleas but she is groomed every day and I have never found a flea although she may have the odd one. I wonder if it stems from the wasp sting. What do you think?

A It's not easy to diagnose skin problems when you haven't seen the cat, but your vet's explanation of flea allergy is much more credible than blaming the residual effects of a wasp sting that happened more than two years ago.

Some cats are hypersensitive to flea saliva and one bite will set off the acute irritation shown by Heidi. Another cat might have dozens of fleas and just scratch from time to time.

Ask your vet to suggest a flea control programme and persist with it for a few months. I'm sure that's the way to give Heidi a twitch-free life.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. No correspondence can be entered into.*

TEL: 0171 680 6122

ANIMALS & ACCESSORIES

FAX: 0171 782 7799

PET SITTING

The Sitting Service
23 Ashfield Drive, Halifax HX3 5PQ
01422 [illegible] or 0374 [illegible]
NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL.
Everybody's needs catered for.
For a brochure phone or write
to the above address

HORSES

RECORD BOOK
no horse should be without it
for notes on achievements, breeding, health farrier and
vet, back, worming, feeding, clipping, bedding, insurance
Sturdy A4 size. Price incl £6.99
[illegible]

CATS

LOOKING FOR that special kitten? Call Cat-a-Log for pedigree cats. 01777 248562.

HORSES

DIY HORSE MATERIALS
72in wide 12oz Poly filled cotton, lined for night rugs, black and navy, 60 in wide also available. 1in and 2in nylon Webbing, all colours. Buckles, metal, plastic, crossover, Dee's, Rings, New Zealand green and blue from Ripstop to 15oz canvas. Velcro 1in and 2in bindings, all colours. Many more materials in stock - send for over 40 free samples and descriptions. Access/Visa.Same day despatch. All materials now cut in metres.
S.P. Sugrue Esq
4a Penbeagle Ind Estate
St Ives, Cornwall TR26 5ND
Dept TT. Tel: 01736 793305

MEMORIALS

PET MEMORIAL Ironworks. For garden or cemetery, for free brochure call 01702 616988

ACCESSORIES

SAFE FLEA COLLARS
Cat £1:59 each
Dog £1.99 each
Including P&P
Up to four months protection for your pet. Cat Collars are £1.59 in red, blue or black felt or £1.99 in felt with a reflective silver, yellow or orange strip. The dog collars are large enough for any dog. All our collars are safe and contain no organo phosphates. Send for details to POSTAL PET PRODUCTS, 15 South Street, Hull, HU1 3QG Tel. 01482 228150

AVIARY

Stitch a Portrait of your Pet
Cross stitch or needlepoint charts (colour or symbol) created from your own photograph. To discuss details, telephone Ann on
01905 381506
(no obligation!)
Box Tree Cottage Designs

PORTRAITS

AN Original Oil painting of your adorable pet from your favourite photograph. 01773 713667

OIL OR PASTEL
PAINTINGS
of your pet
Oil £40
Pastels £25
Call Rhona Jacobs on
0117 967 6720
for details

LOST PETS

PROBLEM DOG? Pet behaviour consultant Cliff Dunicliffe gives telephone consultation for £8 fee. Call 0115 928 1670

PORTRAITS

YOUR DOG PORTRAYED IN PASTEL FROM GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS
Prices from £45 - framing service available
Picture It!
For details contact
Teresa at 'Picture It'
43 Westcourt Lane,
Shepherdswell,
Dover, Kent CT15 7PT.
Tel: 01304 830206

PET FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

TIDWELL HOUSE
Budleigh Salterton, Devon
Family run country hotel
Lovely, quiet area near sea.
Good walks, golf, touring.
Friendly and informal
Delicious, creative food.
Large ensuite rooms, bar,
large gardens, car park.
Dogs genuinely welcome
Weekly Rate
£196pp DB&B
Tel: 01395 442444

PET FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

ORMONDE HOUSE
NEW FOREST
Lyndhurst
Free Exbury Garden tickets
3 DAY Midweek Breaks
£36pp DB&B
£26pp B&B
Ormonde House offers a warm welcome, home cooking.
Pretty en-suites,
Rovers welcome.
Opposite open Forest.
Tel: 01703 282806

ALL OVER
SCOTLAND
Cottages
in lovely locations where Pets are welcome.
Ecosse Unique Limited
For colour brochure
Tel: 01835 870779
No booking fees

HEALTH

ABSENT HEALING
can help so many problems for your much loved pet. I am a fully qualified healer H.P.A.I.
For further details please contact Jenny Boughey on
01239 654616
Tel/Fax.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bransby
BUNNY MANUFACTURER OF TIMBER BUILDINGS
DEPT T. BRANSBY • LINCOLN • LN1 2PH
The Best !
FOR DOG KENNELS & RUNS
FINANCE AVAILABLE • MASTERCARD/VISA
BROCHURE HOTLINE 01427 787303
SALES & INFORMATION 01427 788385
FACSIMILE LINE 01427 787062

DOGS

PETSAFE
DOG COLLARS & LEADS
Telephone no. embroidered onto quality coloured webbing from £18
NO MORE LOST TAGS.
FREE catalogue from Green Farm Trading: 01473 737877

GENERAL

Dirt Trapper Door Mats

At last - as seen at Crufts and Shows nationwide - the door mat that really works! No more muddy footprints or pawmarks on your newly cleaned floors and carpets!
Dirt Trapper Door Mats stop dirt at the door of home or car with absorbent cotton pile removing wet, dry, even greasy dirt from shoes and paws. They have non-slip latex backing and are fully machine-washable at 40 C.
Available in seven colours and 3 sizes:
Blue, Green/Black, Black/White, Fawn, Dark Grey, Seal Brown, Black/Brown
●80cm x 50cm £16.95 ●80cm x 100cm £32.95 ●80cm x 150cm £46.95
Plus £2.95 p&p per mat Credit cards accepted
from Turtle Mat Co, 92a Kings Road, Kingston, Surrey, KT2 5HT.
Tel: 0181-296 0366 Fax: 0181-296 0360

هكذا من [illegible]

'At what point, I wonder, do boisterous boys and girlsterous girls turn into self-important men and self-effacing women?'

She won't blow her own trumpet

LIFE AND SOUL

GINNY DOUGARY

Women are natural-born storytellers, I thought, as I listened to eight *high-flying females tell* their audience at a seminar how they had *managed to survive* in their careers for so long. Refreshingly, they revealed that they had often been guided by instinct when making *important decisions*, following the urgent promptings of their *hearts as much* as the cool reasoning of their heads.

Sometimes this meant they arrived in the same place as *their more* overtly ambitious male colleagues, despite the *circuitous* journey. Sometimes this meant they had willingly sacrificed the top jobs or made a virtue out of a *redundancy* in order to have a more complete and satisfying life.

But most striking was the way in which *the women portrayed themselves* as the fall-gal in their own stories — the jolly matron. Queen Bee of the music press surrounded by her cadaverous boy journalists; the flamboyant sex goddess, *buffeted here* and there by life's vicissitudes but by God (this said through gritted teeth — an Oscar-winning performance) she's still standing. Perhaps it was a distancing device, a way to pretend to *themselves* that they were not really, talking about themselves. We all know what bad form it is for women to blow *their own trumpets — and nowhere more* so than in Britain.

Their professional stories were studded with details of personal loss and feelings of insecurity: the miscarriages and *times* of despair, waking up in the morning believing you will never be able to pick yourself up again. The intimacy of such private feelings was all the more poignant for it being shared by such *public women. They seemed to see it as* part of the deal to hold a mirror to the imperfections of what might appear on *the outside to be their inexorable rise, to a* room full of younger and less experienced women.

And there was a complete lack of pomposity. Almost without exception, the *women would refer* to some aspect of high-powered executive life that they had rejected in favour *of the bigger picture* — the directorial suite, the chaffeur-driven limo — and then look incredibly *embarrassed that* they had been crass enough to mention such furbelows. I could not help thinking *that if* it had been a panel of men, not only would there have been no trace of *bashfulness but we would have been left* in no doubt whatsoever about the magnitude of the sacrifice. You can be sure we would have been treated, with a train-spotter's attention to detail, for instance, *to the exact make* and make-up of the company car: "It was, as it happens, a BMW Series 7, 36 *valve, twin carb*, fuel-injection, limited edition convertible with state-of-the-art seat warmers."

Trollope offered the following advice: "Above all things, never think that you're not good enough yourself. A man should never think that. My belief is that in life, people *will take you very much at your own* reckoning." But at what point, I wonder, do boisterous boys and girlsterous girls *turn into self-important* men and self-effacing women?

Our nanny, who is in *her early fifties* and has looked after a staggering 54 children in her long career, believes that girls are more confident than boys. So what happens to them as they grow up, I *asked her. How does their bravado get* beaten out of them? "Life," she said grimly. "It's a man's world, isn't it?"

But if it is a man's world, why is it that so many men feel uneasy in it? Some of *the most swaggering, posturing, strutting* men are, one suspects, profoundly *un*-selfconfident behind the bluster. Insecurity *in a powerful man is an uneasy* and sometimes dangerous combination, often *translating into tyrannical* behaviour. And while it may serve women's professional interests to talk themselves up, *self-absorption is unattractive and* boring whatever the sex: women who play the man's game are even worse, in my mind, than the men they imitate. One friend told me of a thrusting neighbour *who refers to "my staff"* when *she is* talking about her nanny and her cleaner.

There is no excuse for our generation of *mothers, one might think, to bring up* our sons to be anything other than *perfectly well-balanced model New Men*. But I wonder whether our child-centred culture might be in danger of creating — *irony of ironies — more monstrously* egotistical men than all the previous generations put together. No one who has read Kate Saunders's searing account of her young son's despotic hold on *her household* can doubt that even the most feisty feminists may find themselves *defenceless against all that nascent* testosterone.

Our own sons often seem to rule our roost. *Car journeys sound like junior Question Time*, as each of them tries to drown out a perceived opponent. "Absolute silence," the older one thunders, "listen to me, everybody."

"*Oh shhhhuddup, you . . . nostril*," his younger brother retaliates. "I'm the one who's talking." It's a good thing we don't have a daughter — she would not get a word in edgeways. So much for equality.

Meet my friend, the mother-in-law

With some exceptions, the old stereotype is being consigned to the dustbin, says **Candida Crewe**

Take a fat harridan with a shrill voice, a *silly hat with cherries*, and 1950s National Health specs with go-fast wings *like Mrs Merton's, and* you have every tired stand-up comedian's version of The Mother-in-Law. She *must* be the oldest cliché in the book. While the trio of words — mother-in-law — can, surely, no longer raise even the most downtrodden smile, it does still manage to prompt in most of us a negative image. This is because she has been the butt of jokes, if very lame ones, for so long that she has become part of our collective psyche.

But does the bossy, possessive, interfering witch of popular lore actually exist?

"I don't think the caricature is true any longer, not since the early Eighties," says Julia Cole, a counsellor and therapist for Relate and author of *Crunch Points for Couples*. "The jokes had their roots in something serious and profound *which still exists: how* we separate from the family we grew up in, move on, create *one of our own and accept new* loyalties. A man had to worry about an overbearing mother-in-law, and *a woman about* a man who had trouble leaving his mother. I occasionally still *get women saying their husbands* complain that they don't iron their shirts as well as their mother used to.

"But things have changed since the 1950s and 1960s. The woman is no longer a chattel being passed from her family to her husband. In the past, parents gave her away like a gift and so still believed they had some influence on how that gift was treated. Now a woman is more likely to have a career and an equal partnership. She has greater confidence and self-esteem, so is less likely to be cowed by her mother-in-law. Also, the increase in co-habitees — by 2000, 50 per *cent of couples* won't be married — means that the in-law role is more blurred."

Felicity Binyon, 58, whose eldest daughter, Miranda, married Harry Cory-Wright, a photographer, in 1995, has an enviable relationship with her son-in-law. "I've never felt like a music-hall mother-in-law," she says. "With my *generation, meeting the future* mother-in-law was like meeting the matriarch. But the whole structure of the family has changed. Now the prospective son or daughter-in-law isn't like a newcomer arriving into the family, someone who must be scrutinised and considered. All the old things of class and money no *longer exist* — not from my point of view, anyway. Also, my children's generation is much more liberated, they tend to think of us more as friends. I feel Harry [who is 33] *treats me like an equal. Other* than showing he loves your daughter, it's the *nicest compliment* a son-in-law can pay you."

Felicity, who has been married twice, has five *grown-up* daughters and lives in Oxford. She sees *Harry and Miranda* about once a month, and relishes *her visits to the* house where they live on the Norfolk coast. "Harry and I both think Norfolk is the best place ever and we share quite a lot of artistic atunement. I love his work and admire his sharing of looking after the baby. He's very tactful and conscious of how I might be feeling. If there's ever any tension between Miranda and I, he would think it was our *business and allow us to deal with* it in our own way. He's never interfered in my relationship *with her in any way*."

The Cory-Wrights' son, Josey, was born 15 months ago. Although Felicity feels there has been no separation from Harry since the baby was born, she does acknowledge that there has been a slight change in the relationship with him, and the roles have become more obvious.

"Whereas during the courtship and the wedding you're a friend," she says, "when the baby comes along you're needed. *Harry's and my shared* concern for Miranda and affection for Josey has deepened the bond between us, but it's become more obvious that we are two generations. As a grandmother as well as mother-in-law you have to curb all *controlling instincts and realise* that if you're needed you will be there, but you don't *interfere*. My first mother-in-law, wonderful though she was, used to send me little *notes about how to do things. I* wouldn't dream of doing that."

'She used to send me little notes about how to do things'

Harry clearly appreciates *Felicity's tact. He thinks she is* the perfect mother-in-law and that their relationship *is excellent*. "Miranda and I were quite grown-*up when we married*," he says. "We were in our thirties, *not teenagers*. Felicity's not the classic disapproving *mother-in-law*, there's no hype about going to visit *granny, none of* that having to be on one's best behaviour. I love her youth of mind, and never feel shy of talking about anything with her. Also, she's not living close by, which is a shame but it does *perhaps explain* why there's never been any problem with the potential in-law factor of *interfering*."

The same could not be said of Lily Trotter, 30, who lives in *Somerset in the same street as* her mother-in-law. Lily's husband David is a builder and *they have a son, Tom, and she* has had her moments of experiencing the traditional mother-in-law from hell. "When I first met Joan," says *Lily*, "she was warm, homely, easy-going, but that was before I was David's girlfriend. Then she was cold and *unfriendly*, and talked to David as if I wasn't there. She never *asked me a single question* and revealed a fearsome temper. Once at lunch she cut me off mid-sentence by starting to clear the plates away. She's an old-fashioned woman and was not going to accept me as her son's live-in girlfriend. One *time, she stormed into our* house when David was out and ripped down the curtains, *saying they* weren't good enough."

This sort of behaviour was *normal* until after Lily and David got married five years ago and Tom was born. Then things began slowly to change for the better and Joan became much more like the woman Lily had originally met.

"I realise now," Lily says, "that what I sometimes took to be real rudeness was another generation *not* wanting to intrude, *its* respect of boundaries. Joan's got a brusque manner but she's a good *person underneath, funny and* easy-going. Partly why we get on better now is because I've *decided not to be intimidated*. If she tries to stuff Tom with food, I tell her when he doesn't *want it*. If she asks how I know he's not hungry, I say because he's my son.

"These days she hasn't time to be a busybody. I can even say it's nice having her so *near*. I *enjoy* visiting her, we have good bonding sessions and moans about David. I like the mix of generations, so long as she respects our privacy. She no longer storms in unannounced. That all stopped the moment we got married.

"I think she believes her responsibility for David has deferred to his wife. It took *some doing, but at last she's* handed him over."

Harry Cory-Wright and Lily Trotter are not freaks for liking their mothers-in-law. These days it is quite normal for people to regard them as confidantes and friends. The mother-in-law of today is a woman who was young in the 1960s and 1970s and probably had her *fair share of fun in her time*. She is a less upright creature than her vaudeville counter*part, and determined not to* repeat the pattern of mistakes made by her own intrusive *mother-in-law*.

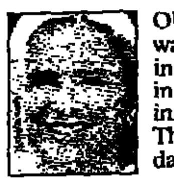
The experiences of Felicity and Harry do prove that an excellent in-law relationship is possible. So isn't it time the *stereotypical* mother-in-law was consigned to the familial skip? Surely, for the next *millennium*, comedians will have to hit upon a new butt for their jokes.

ALBAN DONOHOE

Harry Cory-Wright with son Josey and mother-in-law Felicity Binyon: "It's great because I can talk to her about anything"

Ruth Gledhill joins a small but determined group of worshippers in Norfolk

Warm welcome in a cold climate



OUTSIDE it was warm and sunny, but inside my bones froze in the icy air that *infiltrated every pore*. The smell was of damp and stale sea-*water*. I wondered if the sepulchral chill was a manifestation of the ghost of a pre-Reformation *Prior said* to haunt the church. The reality was more prosaic. The Rector has decided it would be "*immoral*" to burn up the amount of fuel that would be required to warm the tiny congregation *in what is said to be the largest* parish church in England.

Wised-up members come to church *in thermal* underwear and woolly stockings. Quartz ray heaters glowed like sunlamps *above the choir stalls*, where most of the congregation sat, next to the choir. The tops of their heads *roasted but* their bottom halves, protected by the pews, froze. Those of us who arrived too late to sit *in the choir* simply froze all over.

While we ran through an enlivened ASB, the Rector, *Canon Michael* Woods, who has a team of five paid and unpaid staff running six *churches in and* around Great Yarmouth, was censing the altar across the river at St Mary's. *Later that* night, at another of his churches, hands would be raised, guitars played and Graham Kendrick worship songs sung. "The churches in the parish range from the tambourine to the thurible," the rector *explained*. "*Every member* of the team can operate throughout that spectrum."

Our service was *taken* by his curate, the Rev Gill Jessop, a bouncing, beaming late ordinand and clearly at the evangelical end of that *spectrum*. She had just returned from Spring Harvest, an evangelical Christian festival at a Butlins holiday *camp*. "There was something special about being with 9,000 other Christians," *she said, addressing her* congregation of 50 as though we were thousands. The difficulty came on her *return*. The doubts set in. "Did I really meet Jesus or was it my imagination?"

Altar girls at St Nicholas Church

She related this to the gospel reading of the day, referring to Christ's post-Resurrection appearances to the disciples. "There is no point in hiding your light under a bushel, or covering it with a bucket, depending on which version you are reading," she said. "You must go out into the world and let people see the light by living the life of the Lord. Have no doubt that it is real."

St Nicholas was founded in 1101 by Herbert de Losinga, first Bishop of Norwich, and was repeatedly enlarged and extended until, by the *middle of the 13th century*, the aisles were widened to 39ft, and remain to this day the widest side aisles of any Christian church in the world. Sadly, the population of 10,000 the church was intended to serve was reduced to 3,000 by the Black Death. After the Reformation, the refectory became a stable. The church *under Cromwell* was divided into three, for the Puritans and Independents, with the Church of *England in the nave*. Restored magnificently by the Victorians, it was gutted by bombs in 1942.

In 1961 the present rector, Canon Woods, grandson of the great Norfolk boat builder Walter Woods, served as *the crucifer who led the procession* into the church for its consecration after restoration. Imagine his dismay *five years* ago when he returned as rector to find it surrounded by water. Rumour has it that a cement mixer had fallen into a drain and was concreted over, raising the high water *table even higher. Hence the smell of* damp, competing with that of polish applied by the army of volunteers.

Canon Woods will lead the congregation tomorrow in Anzac day celebrations, with didgeridoo and Australian dance, as the replica of Captain Cook's HMS *Endeavour* rests *in the harbour*. The rector has fought a valiant battle to resurrect the church, and there is no doubt that the *tide of despond* is receding. Line dancing with Rowena's Dance Ranch has been introduced, and the nave will host soon a dog show to find the dog with the waggiest tail, and the one *most like its owner*.

Less valiant souls would despair to be given the cure of St Nicholas, beached on the edge of England like some battle-scarred ship of the past. Not so Canon *Woods*. A cleric who describes with glee his regular Sunday forays onto the Norfolk Broads in *his grandfather's oak and mahogany* boat to take on "the Tupperware Navy that herds up and down in its *plastic boats*" is *just* the *man* to salvage this church for the present, while not destroying its past.

● *The Priory and Parish Church of St Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 4EE. Tel: 01493 850666*

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

TEAM RECTOR: Canon Michael Woods

ARCHITECTURE: Mostly Gothic. East *window resembles Donald* Duck. ★★★

SERMON: Valiant, refusing to give in to *doubt*. ★★★★

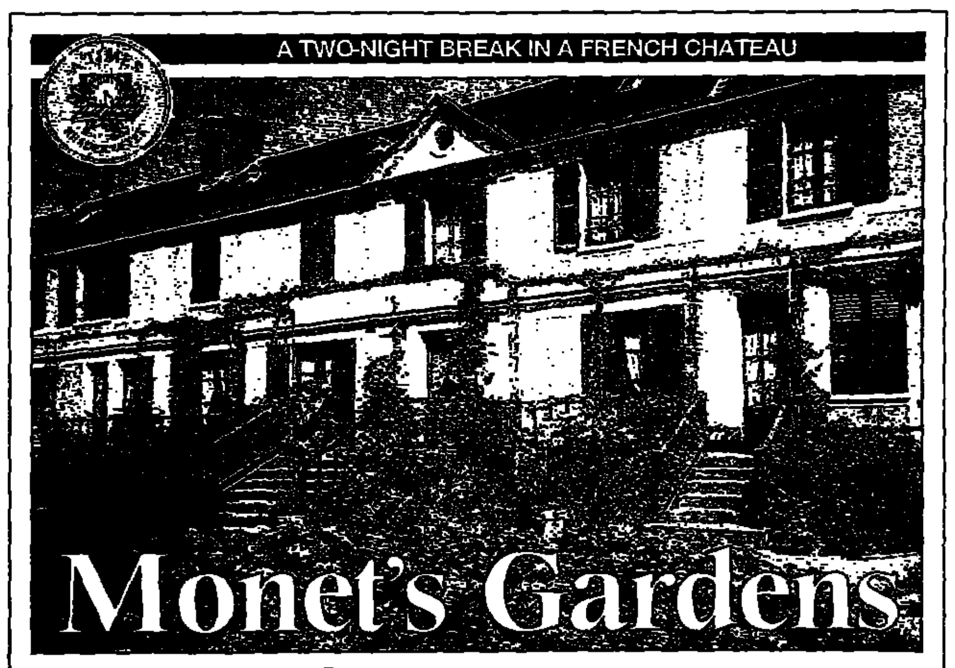
MUSIC: Traditional hymns with choir accompanied by wonderful organ. ★★★★

LITURGY: ASB Rite A. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Chill offset by the warmth of the congregation. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: We warmed up in the nearest Little Chef.

A TWO-NIGHT BREAK IN A FRENCH CHATEAU



Two nights from only £84 per person

TIMES readers are offered this superb two-night break to the Normandy region, staying in the 3* Château de la Corniche, set high above the Seine for £84 per person on room only basis, or the 4* Château de Brécourt, surrounded by a moat and situated in secluded woodland for £144 per person bed & *breakfast. Both hotels have superb* gastronomic restaurants and are approximately 10kms from Claude Monet's famous house and garden, at Giverny.

During your relaxing stay visit the immaculately maintained gardens and house which give an insight into the great painter's vision. Monet was an enthusiastic gardener *and planted his flowerbeds in a profusion of* colour — which are maintained to their original design. The house with its pink, crushed brick facade, where Monet lived from 1883-1926, has a colourful decor and the intimate charm of former times.

Price includes:
- Return channel crossing with Hoverspeed
- Two nights accommodation
- Admission to Monet's house and garden, in Giverny
- Free bottle of wine in room.

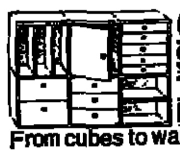
Price based on one car and two people sharing twin/ double room. Extra night 3* £25 per person, and 4* £55 per person - maximum four nights. Supplement of £10 per car for travel on a Friday or Saturday between 11 July and 13 August. Offer valid now until 31 October, 1997.

For further details send coupon to:
THE TIMES
MONET'S GARDENS OFFER,
EURODRIVE, IMAGE HOUSE,
STATION RD, LONDON, N17 9LR.

The Times Monet's Gardens
NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box. TL/FC ☐

ABTA V473X
Offer subject to availability.
This offer is operated by Leisure Direction Limited, a company independent of Times Newspapers Limited.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CALL EURODRIVE HOLIDAYS NOW ON 0181-324 4000



CUBES SHELVING TRESTLES DESKS ETC

From cubes to wardrobes plus bookcases, shelves, etc Home or work. Versatile & practical Good value varnished BEECH phone for mail order catalogue CubeStore 0181-994 6016 24hr

ARISE

Andrew Richards ISE
Personalised Exercise, Diet and Slimming Advise from Qualified Professional Athlete

For free details please leave name and address on our 24hrs Answer Service
01792 457466

The Easybathe...

for those with special needs

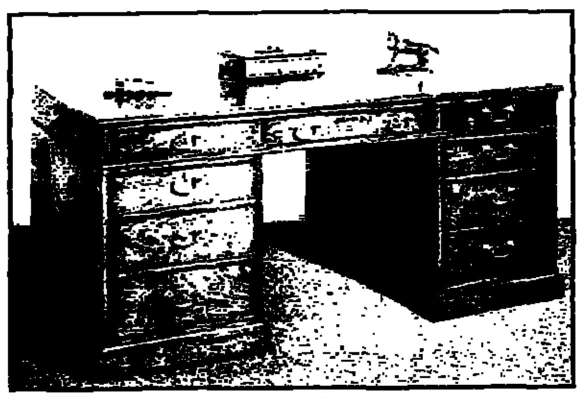
- A deep soaking bath which allows easy access.
- Integral seat complete with contoured backrest.
- Complete installation service & free advice line.
- Wide range of colours.

Premier BATHROOMS

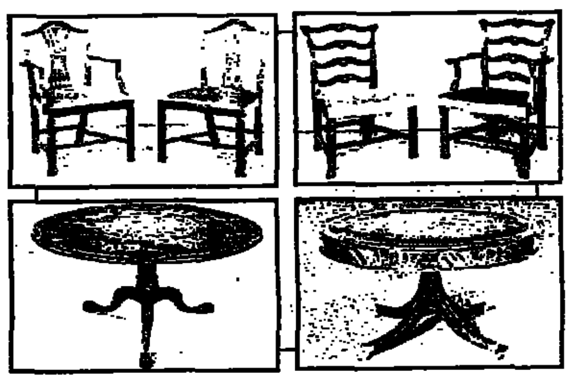
Ring today on 0800 018 0088

Premier Bathrooms • FREEPOST BM4591 • Birmingham • B38 8BR

Recreating the period. Perfectly.



At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of English 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection. Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere.



WILLIAM TILLMAN

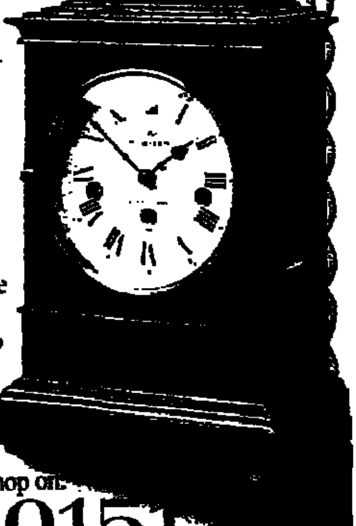
When only perfection is good enough.

30 St James's Street, London SW1A 1HB.
Telephone: 0171 839 2500 Fax: 0171 930 8106

14-24 Crouch Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8LT
Telephone: 01732 883278 Fax: 01732 884439

Maker to, The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Acquire a living piece of English heritage



Any room would be enhanced by a Sewills timepiece or weather instrument. A piece of living history for you to enjoy every day, the perfect gift that genuinely lives up to the occasion. For your FREE brochure complete and return the coupon below to Sewills, Cornhill House, 24 Cornhill, Liverpool L1 8DZ or phone our workshop on:

0151 708 0099

Or fax us on: 0151 708 6777. Open 7 days. Answerphone service out of office hours.

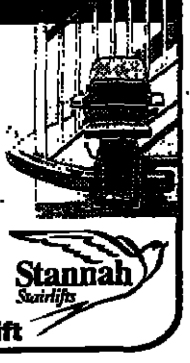
Sewills Maker to the Admiralty – Estd 1800ad –

EH20

Return this coupon to Sewills, Cornhill House, 24 Cornhill, Liverpool L1 8DZ
Quote ref: TI 2804
Name:(Mr/Mrs/Ms.) ______
Address: ______
______ Postcode: ______

"Find out why the world's most chosen stairlift is Stannah."

RAYMOND BAXTER



The world over, more people have chosen a Stannah Stairlift.

- FREE home survey.
- Full warranty.
- Built for your stairs-straight or curved.
- Fastest delivery.
- Nationwide 24 hour call out, 365 days a year.
- British Standards approved.
- Buy direct from Stannah.

Call free: 0800 715 422 , ask for ext. 302

Or write to Stannah Stairlifts Ltd: Dept 302 FREEPOST, SA344, Andover Hants SP10 3BR

Stannah Stairlifts

The world's most chosen stairlift

INDIVIDUALLY MADE-TO-MEASURE SKIRTS & TROUSERS

Mail order service for ladies and gentlemen

BROCHURE AND 100 CLOTH SAMPLES

Call 0113 248 8131

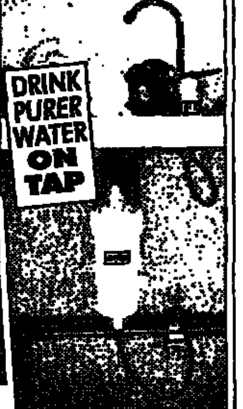
WINEBERGS
Established 1900

Dept TT,
Shannon St,
Leeds LS9 8SS

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR WATER?

Pozzani Products for effective water treatment *at direct prices.*

WATER PURIFIER *(right)* **£78.95**
■ Cheaper than bottled water. ■ Tea, coffee and cordial taste better. ■ Boil without scum. ■ 3 Stages of filtration. ■ 2 Filter changes per year. ■ Choice of 6 tap colours. ■ Fully guaranteed for 3 years.■ Installed in minutes.



Cost-effectively cures problems of hard water scale.– COMPUTERISED 'Black Box' SCALE INHIBITOR ■ Wipe away ■ Prevents & removes limescale. ■ Prevent blocking of scale on sinks & baths. ■ Prevent blocking of shower heads. ■ Stop furring up of heating elements in washers, boilers (so they last longer & save on heating costs). ■ Simple to fit - no plumbing. ■ Alters scale forming minerals without chemicals. ■ Only £2 a year to run - no maintenance. ■ *Guaranteed* 5yrs, 3 month money-back guarantee. ■ Special introductory price.

Also CARTRIDGES for WATER FILTERS *SAVE £f's*
■ For filter jugs & plumbed-in units. ■ Fully guaranteed quality brands. ■ Advise make & model by phone or letter.

FOR FREE BROCHURE

FREEPHONE 0800 0740290

pozzani
(ALSO 'AFTER HOURS' ANSWER PHONE) OR WRITE TO:- POZZANI PURE WATER Plc., Dept T10, Phoenix House, Newmarket, Louth, Lincs LN11 9EL Tel: (01507) 608100

THE LADYS NORFOLK HAT

At last! A beautiful 100% cotton cool and crisp lady's sun hat. Wide brim protects you from the sun. Folds flat to fit in a bag, washable, perfect for spring and summer travel.

Available in Natural, Pale Pink and Pale Blue. Sizes S 54-55cm, M 56-57cm, L 58cm and XL 59cm.

For 48hr Despatch
0171 371 8998

Norfolk Hats, Unit 7,
The Talina Centre, Bagleys
Lane, London SW6 2BW
Fax 0171 371 7011

Made In U.K

Please specify if you do not wish to receive details of other offers.

1997 POETRY GUILD OFFICIAL CALL FOR ENTRIES

Your Poem Could Win!

You could be ***published!***
You could even ***win £1,000!***

It is with great pride that *The Poetry Guild* announces its official call for entries for our *1997 National Poetry Competition.* Through this prestigious competition, you are invited to submit original poetry for consideration by our distinguished panel of literary judges. All entries will receive a personal acknowledgement from the committee, and should your poem be selected, you will be honoured with publication in our upcoming, hardbound anthology, *Days and Dreams Gone By.* A well-deserved showcase for talented poets all across the country — and around the world!

If your entry is selected, you also become eligible for the Grand Prize of £1,000 or one of 99 other valuable prizes. As a selected author, you would also be awarded Privileged Lifetime Membership in *The Poetry Guild.* Founded over a quarter of a century ago, our publisher has printed books in 14 countries and in 6 languages—inclusion in this fraternity is an admirable accomplishment.

Contest Rules:

1. Send one original poem, 20 lines or less, printed or typed, any subject, any style.
2. Contest deadline: 30 May 1997
3. Up to 20 contests this year, each will award one winner £1,000.00, plus 99 other prizes will be awarded.

There are no fees to enter, and all winners will be published.
Contest is open to all, except current or past employees of *The Poetry Guild* and their families.

Mail entry with name and complete address on poem to:
The Poetry Guild
Contest KB-160
Marlborough Road, Aldbourne
Marlborough, Wilts SN8 2HP

Or, you may use our website at www.poetry-guild.com

Unpublished and published poets are welcome. No purchase is required to enter or win the contest. Authors retain all rights to their work.

Plus–*You* will get a *Free Gift!*

No Entry Fee!

No Purchase Required!

A £2.50 Value... FREE!

Send your entry by the deadline of 30 May 1997 and you'll receive a special acknowledgement gift — a FREE edition of *How to Get Published*, a valuable and insightful guidebook especially for aspiring writers.

We'll fit one tomorrow.
Straight up.

Call us now on freefone
0800 19 19 19
For a free no obligation quote.

- Next day installation available nationwide.
- Buy direct from the manufacturer.
- Thousands of satisfied customers.
- New or reconditioned.

GIVE YOUR LIFE A LIFT

SEND NO MONEY

THE ORIGINAL SHOOTING STICK

Comprises a two piece chromium plated steel stem, easily adjusted to suit anybody whatever their size, with a strong seat which is hard wearing yet comfortable. It features a removable ferrule for use on hard surfaces. With the seat folded the handle and sturdy construction makes it into an ideal walking stick.

Ideal for all outdoor sports spectators and anybody anywhere in need of a rest.

SEND NO MONEY NOW - PAY AFTER RECEIPT OF ORDER
Credit cards will be charged 7 days after despatch of order

SERVICE QUALITY TRUST

Stay Safe (Dept. T.17 81 The Maltings,
Stanstead Abbotts, Ware, Herts, SG12 8HG
Tel:- 01920 871453

Norfolk Intrepid -®
The Ultimate Outdoor Hat

The expedition tested Norfolk Intrepid is the ultimate outdoor hat. Made in the UK from strong 100% cotton, its solid brass gauzed eyelets keep you cool and keep bugs out. It protects you from UV and other harmful rays - it even floats! 48hr despatch. Colours: Natural, Navy Bottle Green. Sizes S (54-55cm), M (56-57cm), L (58cm), XL (59-60cm), XXL (61-62cm).

To order call **0171 371 8998**
Norfolk Hats, Unit 7, The Talina Centre, Bagleys Lane, London SW6 2BW.

Please specify if you do not wish to receive details of other offers.

Flat Chested?

The Non-surgical, Medical alternative....

Due to a major development by a Swiss based pharmaceutical laboratory, a real alternative exists for those concerned about their lack of breasts.

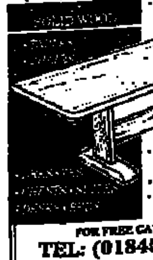
No longer is it necessary to endure painful surgery or the indignity of wearing falsies or silicone breast enhancement products that just sit in your bra.

A real solution exists which can transform your life, boosting your confidence and enabling you to gain the hour glass figure of your dreams.

For a FREE INFORMATION PACK please write or fax stating age, title (Mrs, Miss, Ms or Mr) and any significant medical conditions to:

MEDICA INTERNATIONAL PHARMACUTICALS
(Dept THC) P.O. Box 12888
London SW11 67S
Fax:00 41 81 833 8890

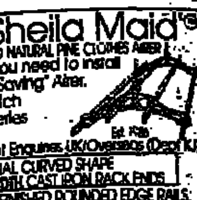
The Treske Shop
Quality Furniture • Custom built options



- Wide range of fabrics
- 5 year guarantee
- Direct Home Delivery

FOR FREE CATALOGUE
TEL: (01845) 522000
Treske (Dept T1), Station Works, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 4NY

The 'Sheila Maid'®
CAST IRON AND NATURAL PINE CLOTHES AIRER
Everything you need to install this 'Energy Saving' Airer.
48 hr Despatch
Home Deliveries
Worldwide
Trade Account Enquiries UK/Overseas (Dept K)



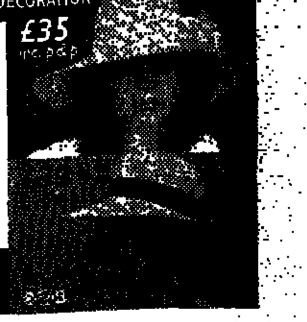
THE TRADITIONAL CURVED SHAPE
15 1/2" FULL WIDTH CAST IRON RACK ENDS
4 PINE, HAND FINISHED ROUNDED EDGE RAILS
NATURAL JUTE PULLEY CORD, SCREWS & PLUGS
RACK ENDS, PULLEYS, CLEAT IN 6 COLOURS.

The 'ORIGINAL' (Castings Grey Metal Clear Coated)	5' £35	6' £37	7' £39	8' £41
COLOURS (Castings Red, Blue, Green, Black, White)	5' £33	6' £35	7' £37	8' £39

POSTAGE +PACKING ADD £3.
Illustrated details from S.A. Johnson
THE DOMESTIC PARAPHERNALIA Co. Dept. T.
Unit 15, Marine Business Centre, Dock Rd,
Lytham, Lancs FY8 5AJ England
Tel: 01253 736334 24hrs. Fax: 01253 795191

GREEN RIVER PANAMAS

SAME DAY MAILING + WOODEN TRAVEL BOX + DECORATION



Genuine Panamas handwoven in Ecuador, each rolled into a Balsawood Travel Box – the perfect summer hat. A (separate) decorative silk flower is provided with the ladies' style.
Order by phone or send a cheque/PO to:
The Green River Trading Co Ltd
39 Erskine Hill, London NW11 6EY

TELEPHONE with
0181 458 0047

Pollen, pet hairs, dust and dust mites...virtually nothing escapes the 8½ lb ORECK XL

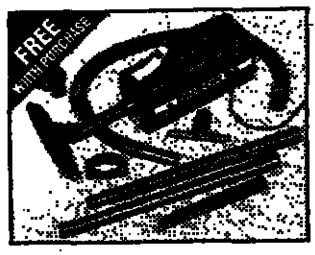
The vacuum chosen by 50,000 hotels and over 1 million homes.
Why? Because it's powerful, robust and incredibly lightweight!

Why is the Oreck so efficient?
Because pile-lifting roller brushes spinning at 6,500 rpm deliver up to 70 million strokes a minute. The Oreck tackles the most stubbornly ingrained dirt.

Great for allergy sufferers.
The filtration system traps 99.4% of all microscopic irritants as small as 0.1 micron.

Oreck's 'Helping Hand™'.
The handle, orthopaedically designed to eliminate the gripping action for those with painful joints.

15 DAYS TRIAL in your own home



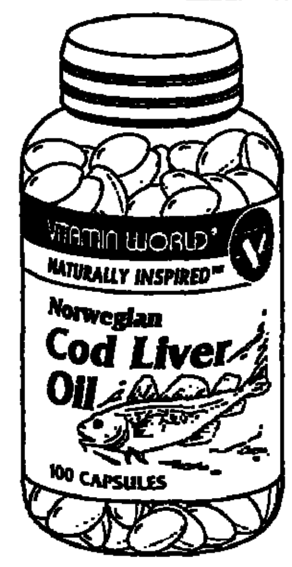
Worth £79...the hand-held super compact vac.
It weighs only 4lbs, yet has immense power. It's a companion to the upright to clean all those awkward places... upholstered furniture, curtains, stairs and cars.

- **Interest FREE easy payment terms**
- **Comprehensive UK after-sales service**
- **2-year guarantee**

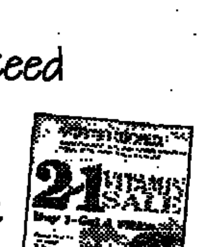
CALL US FREE ON
0800 684 684
QUOTING CODE NO: 0907

The supplier of this product is: Salestrac Ltd, Cowley Bridge Rd, Exeter, Devon EX4 5HQ as agent for Oreck Corporation

SPECIAL £1 INTRODUCTORY OFFER 100 COD LIVER OIL CAPSULES Was ~~£4.45~~ (inc. p&p) – NOW JUST SEND £1 TO COVER POST AND PACKING



- Finest Quality
- Lowest Prices
- Direct from the Manufacturer
- Fast, Courteous and Efficient Service
- Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back
- PLUS Receive our FREE Super Discount Catalogue Featuring over 250 of the finest, most up-to-date natural products.



Prod. No. 1150
(Limit one with coupon)
VITAMIN WORLD LTD., Dept. TT1CD,
FREEPOST Southampton SO18 1WA.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FABULOUS £1 OFFER NOW!!
OFFER EXPIRES 23/7/97

Send £1 to cover post and packing.
Send cheque/P.O.'s or coin to: VITAMIN WORLD LTD., Dept. TT1CD, FREEPOST Southampton SO18 1WA.

Name Mrs./Ms./Mr ______
Address ______
______
Post Code ______ Tel No. ______ Prod. No. 1150

Orders are normally dispatched within 24 hours of receipt, but please allow up to 14 days for delivery. One order per household. Consumers only. No Stores, Distributors or Wholesalers. Offer applies to UK only. ©1997 Vitamin World LTD. Reg.No. 3056306

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK.

[illegible]

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
CALL: 0171 680 6860
FAX: 0171 481 9313

SHOPAROUND

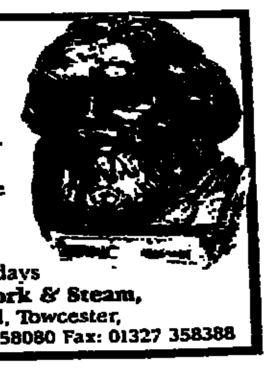
GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS
From largest archives saved from 1642-1996. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.
REMEMBER WHEN
520 Purley Way,
Croydon CR0 4RE
0181 688 6323
or call FREE 0500 520 000

CASTLE COMBE SKID PAN
Learn how to control a car in wet or icy conditions. We provide the cars and instruction. Half day course is great fun and costs £49.50
GIFT VOUCHERS FOR THE COURSE MAKE EXCELLENT PRESENTS
Castle Combe Skid Pan,
Castle Combe Circuit
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7EX
Tel: (01249) 782101

ANTIQUE DESKS

Large stock of old desks.
Oak, Mahogany, Walnut, Victorian, Edwardian, Rolltop, Cylinder, Partner's, Dickens and Pedestal Desks.
DON SPENCER ANTIQUES
36a Market Place, Warwick
Beneath Vintage Antique Centre
WARWICK (01926) 499857or (01926) 407989
Mobile 0836 525755
Old Desks Purchased

Karl Marx



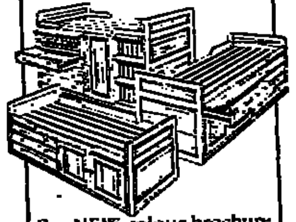
Marx into the new socialist millenium with our miniature bust of the great philosopher. Approx 6¼" high, metallic coloured finish, available for: **£29.95 + £3.95** p+p. Allow 10 days for delivery. Orders to: **Clockwork & Steam,** The Old Bakery, 24 Brackley Rd, Towcester, Northants NN12 6DJ Tel: 01327 358080 Fax: 01327 358388

FABULOUS NEW PATENTED SYSTEM
For fast and astonishingly easy to assemble fitted wardrobes
A WARDROBE ERECTED IN MINUTES FROM FLATPACK

For the man with few D.I.Y. skills. An ingenious system of sliding panels enables you to fit right up to the ceiling lengths of 10 feet or more
Full range of chests, dressing-tables etc.
SUPERB QUALITY - AGGRESSIVELY LOW PRICES
Of course we also design and fit, and we specialise in designing offices that convert into bedrooms in minutes
At the top of our range we are importers of the most luxurious, solid wood, fitted furniture in Europe
NEW PRODUCT LAUNCH DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE NOW
Details, Brochures, Tel: 0181 330 2230
Richmond Luxury Fitted Wardrobes Ltd.

TIDY RAIL SALE £9.95 *inc. delivery*
Neat and compact. Ideal for home, flat, bedsit. Assembles in seconds. Just slot together (no bolts). Includes shoe rack. Tubular steel. Bright plated finish. 38ins. long £9.95 inc delivery. 53ins. long £11.95 inc delivery. Castors £2.40 extra. Clear plastic Dust Covers to completely cover rails £2.40 each. Clear clothes covers 6 for £2.70. 5 bar slack hangers £3.00 each. 5 bar skirt hangers £3.00 each. Enquiries invited for Heavy Duty Rails also at very low prices - write for details. Despatched in 7/10 days. U.K. Mainland only **ARDENCO LTD(Dept TTR), 2a Wood Hill Industries, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 3LX.**

MORIARTI'S
SOLID PINE
STORAGE BEDS



For NEW colour brochure
PHONE
(01233) 850214

ADVERTISEMENT

Free Travel Tips Offer

To introduce the new edition of their *Complete Handbook of Travel Tips*, Carnell Ltd is offering FREE – with no obligation now or ever – valuable tips on any ONE *(only)* of the following:

1☐ Cruise ship discounts
2☐ Rail travel bargains
3☐ Cargo ship travel bargains
4☐ Special travel insurance deals
5☐ Off-season hotel bargains
6☐ Discounts on package tours
7☐ Car hire bargains
8☐ Hotel '*corporate rate*' deals
9☐ Hotel '*short notice*' deals
10☐ Weekend hotel bargains
11☐ Bargain air tickets
12☐ Air ticket upgrades
13☐ Group discount deals
14☐ Currency exchange deals

Please note that this offer only applies to readers who respond within 7 days of this announcement being published. To claim your FREE *Bargain Travel Tips*, tick the subject of your choice *(one only)* and return the whole of this announcement together with your name and address to Carnell Ltd, Dept FTO, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT.

Name________________
Address________________
Post Code________

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS

Solid Mahogany Dining Table & set of 6 Chairs
£1699 PAY NOTHING FOR ONE YEAR AND TAKE THREE YEARS INTEREST FREE CREDIT
Visit our factory and superstore showrooms to see the worlds largest display of fine English solid Mahogany, Walnut, Yew & Birdseye Maple antique replica furniture made by master craftsmen to a standard unsurpassed this century
Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm • Phone for brochure
BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS
N17 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL
(BETWEEN GATWICK & BRIGHTON) WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX
Tel: 01444 245577

A SHIRT by SEYMOURS is individually made to measure
EXACT SLEEVE LENGTH.........✓
CORRECT BODY SIZE.........✓
CHOICE OF COLLAR SHAPES.........✓
CHOICE OF FRONT STYLES.........✓
CHOICE OF CUFF STYLES.........✓
CHOICE OF SHOULDER FIT.........✓
CHOICE OF BODY LENGTH.........✓
CHOICE OF 400 FABRICS.........✓
TAILS OR SQUARE BOTTOMS.........✓
FULL STANDARD or SLIM FITS.........✓
AFTER SALES SERVICE.........✓
IMPECCABLY HAND CUT & SEWN.........✓
And of course
THE FINEST QUALITY.........✓

ALSO MADE TO MEASURE CLASSICAL LADIES SHIRT BLOUSES.
WRITE OR PHONE for 400 fabric samples and our colour brochure.
Seymour Shirts
EST [illegible]
FREEPOST, Dept XX,
Bradford BD1 1BR. Tel: 01274 726520

VideoCD
Have your favourite video encoded and put onto CD for only £25. Plays back on any MPC3 compatible PC.
NTrac Media
(01270) 662087
Or visit our web site
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ntracmedia/

Pure Silk Luxury Robe

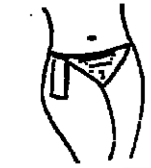
For Men & Women
Luxury weight pure silk. Shawl collar, two large pockets, tie belt and full length sleeves. Relax in a pure silk robe at an affordable price. Available in 4 plain colours: **White, Black, Royal and Ruby,** or in **Paisley Pattern** with **Navy** or **Wine** background. Fully machine washable. *Money back guarantee if not delighted.* Sizes: S. M. L. XL.
FREE Brochure - THREADS OF SILK COLLECTION
2 day Despatch
SALE PRICE **£24.95** SAVE £5
- Access
- Visa
- Switch
- Delta
- Eurocard

Ring now on our 24 HOUR ORDER & BROCHURE HOTLINE **0171 274 3387**
MUCHEN SILK Dept TT2A, FREEPOST, PO Box 3432, London SE5 9BR
Muchen Silk, 4 Crawford House, 75 Warner Road, London SE5 9NE

BIBLES BIBLES
Bibles in the Authorised (King James) Version from £5.00. This is the Version Shakespeare read. Also Foreign Bibles. Please ring 0171 224 3354 or write: Bibles Direct, Freepost 40, LON 8581, LONDON W1E 7DA.
FREE WITH EACH ORDER: BIBLE WORD LIST AND READING SCHEME.

DUST MITE ALLERGIES?
GUARANTEED MITE FREE PILLOWS, DUVETS & COVERS
• Allergy Relief Products Ltd, Mansion Road, Southampton, SO15 3BP. Tel/Fax 01703 332919.

La Zouche



The Glasses case for all occasions, even in the sea. Simply loop over waistband for a secure comfortable fit. Available in black leatherlook £9.95 or real Leather £19.95 inc p&p. Send payment with order to La Zouche, Heath House, Nocton Heath, Lincoln, LN4 2AN.
Please allow 28 days for delivery.

VICTORIAN CHIFFONIER

Handmade Mahogany Chiffonier with backing & shelf.
2-door 46" wide £479
3-door 66" wide £667
excl. delivery
Classic **Reproductions**
PEWSEY, WILTS. SN9 5HL
Big range of Classic Furniture
Visitors Welcome
Mon-Fri 9-5pm. Sat 10-1pm
Ample Parking Tel: 01672 583333

HERALD & HEART HATTERS
STOWAWAY HAT-IN-A-TUBE

From Herald & Heart Hatters comes a hard wearing Summer Hat that rolls up into its own tube for easy travelling and storage.
Made from glazed "paper panama straw" this ivory coloured sun hat comes complete with its own shell hat pin and storage tube.
The price of the Stowaway is just £26.50 (including U.K. p&p).
To purchase please contact
Herald & Heart Hatters
131 St Philip St.
London SW8 3SS
Tel: 0171 627 2414
Fax: 0171 652 2414
email: post@herald-and-heart.demon.co.uk

Monckton
SPRING SALE
ALL SHIRTS NOW **£30**

- Finest two fold cotton poplin
- Exclusive comfortable cut
- Wide range of colours & patterns
- Quality fully guaranteed
- Reg or X long sleeves

CALL, PHONE, WRITE OR FAX FOR
COLOUR BROCHURE
323 KING'S ROAD, LONDON SW3
TEL: 0171 349 8820 FAX: 0171 376 7693
1 SOUTH MOLTON ST, LONDON W1
TEL: 0171 495 2048 ref :- TTM/1

Are You Tempted?
THE *Erotic* Print Society's Catalogue is a rude but sophisticated little 80-page book full of new and exciting colour images of our limited editions. "A *wicked* little volume..."
Send £5.00 cheque (to EPS) or Mastercard/Visa details to: EPS (dept TWH), PO Box 10645, London SW10 9ZT. tel 0171-351 6957 fax 0171-244 8999. Sexually explicit - to purchasers only.

THE GENUINE PANAMA HAT COMPANY
Our New Lady's Panama **£29.95** inc. p&p

Hand woven in Ecuador from twisted straw the Lady's Panama Hat has a full brim trimmed at the edge with leather and is finished to the highest standards with an inner band. It is ideal for providing shade in high temperatures as the straw allows your head to 'breathe'. We have included a light chiffon band in a natural shade which can be removed easily should you wish to add a band of your own. Available in Sizes S 54-55cm, M 56-57cm, L 58cm and XL 59cm
Please allow **14 days** for delivery.
Montecristi Roll-Up and Trilby styles for men also available.
For more details on our full range call **0171 610 9393**
Or write to **The Genuine Panama Hat Company**, Unit 7, The Talina Centre, Bagleys Lane, London SW6 2BW Fax 0171 371 7011
You may be sent details of other offers. Please specify if you do not wish to receive them.

The Loden Collection
Traditional style and natural warmth

Classic Loden Coats and Shooting Jackets from £195.00
Skirts from £69.00 in Hunting Green Loden
Telephone 01768 899111
Fax: 01768 899222
or write for your free colour brochure
BORN for LODEN
Born for Loden, Penrith Estate, Penrith. Cumbria CA11 9EQ TT

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6868
FAX: 0171 481 9313

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6868
FAX: 0171 481 9313

TO RESPOND TO AN ADVERTISER with a voice message facility, simply call 0891 111 127 (Calls cost 50p per minute at all times) and then follow the simple voice instructions. Any printed advertisement in Rendezvous which has the ☎ symbol, indicates that the advertiser has the facility for you to leave him/her a voice message.

THE TIMES

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

AMERICANS SEEK friendship, romance and marriage with British ladies & gentlemen! All ages! English Rose/English Connection, (Dept EN), Romance House, 20, Albion Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1LU. Tel: 01843 863322 (24 hrs). As featured on National Television

ARGUABLY the best travel service for singles! The Wayside Club. Call 01428 722833.

BEAUTIFUL Thai Ladies. Colour brochure. Siam Introductions. Tel: 01689 860 880 (anytime)

CONNEXIONS is the friendship club that puts single Christians in touch with each other. Ring us on 0181 906 4467.

Attractive educated Ladies & Men from overseas seek partners in UK Write World Pen Club/TM, PO Box 4 Goring RG8 9DN

DERBY/Matlock/Burton Success after success for our members. Elite get closer call now for free details 01773 811055

DESPERADO! Is this how you perceive people who join a singles club? Wrong!!! We are for normal, intelligent prof people throughout the Midlands. We hold hosted social events each month and arrange introductions that actually do work. For free interview call Jean 0121 631 3377: Diane on 01203 670099 or Gaynor 01604 585999 R.S.V.P.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

EXCLUSIVE COMPANY. Attractive professionals meet through our extensive Social Calendar. Midlands area 01564 775200

EXCLUSIVE INTRODUCTIONS Bath, Bristol, Glos. Swindon, S. Wales. Perfect Partners of Bath Tel Bath 01225 482080

"I've joined agencies before. 'RSVP' is by far the best!" MB (Herts) Unbeatable locally in Cambs, Beds, Bucks, Norfolk, Herts R.S.V.P. 0800 174484

NEXUS Unattached? Are you aware that there are Nexus members all over the country who want to meet you and include you in their life. (There are parties, walks, holidays etc. as well as the opportunity to meet individually.) To find out more ring for the Brochure. (012374) 71704, (0181) 367 6328, (0113) 2445186, (01869) 338801, (0141) 221 1090, (0181) 944 8629, (01286) 831599, (0121) 472 1968 or (01202) 720355. (Not a Dating Service or Marriage Bureau.)

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01352 715909.

RICHMOND DINING CLUB needs more attractive men to complement our lovely ladies. Ring now on 01483 414419

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

RUSSIAN-LINK Marriage Agency. 4,000 beautiful sincere ladies. 01737 217906 (24 hrs)

ST ALBANS, Harpenden, Welwyn, Luton areas. Elite Introductions for professionals seeking nice normal partners. Call Suzanne on 01582 834200 MEET@compuserve.com

SUFFOLK Norfolk & Colchester seeking that special person? Call Jenny at Elite on 01284 848380: 7 days 10am - 10pm

TAUNTON/Exeter Postcodes. Your local Elite Introductions Professional Secure Confidential. Freephone 0800 214920

THE DINNER CLUB (Est.'86) Join UK's largest up-market singles dining club and enjoy dining, dancing, weekends away, holidays abroad Tel 01244 548816

'**THIS PICTURE** Dating idea is brilliant' Capital Radio, call for details 0171 839 8884 (day) 0181 297 1424 (anytime) ABIA

UNATTACHED? Try a new way to meet people. Freephone the Singles Club on 0800 0266283 (24 hrs) for a free brochure.

WORCESTERSHIRE Gloucester Hereford looking for that special partner Ring Elite Intros Freecall 0500 131713

LADIES

ALONE? Living in the Cambridge Enfield Hertford or London areas? Meet other nice people by joining Elite Introductions For your local office call 0181 374 4001 or 0500 103410

ANGLOPHILE French woman, intelligent, attractive, tall, slim, stylish, romantic looking *for man of strength, substance, kindness & intelligence 45-55 to enrich his & her life.* Hants based. Photo please. Box 4535 ✍

ARE you tall, 35-40, a professional gentleman who is kind, generous & loving with GSOH. Maybe handsome too. If you fit all or some of the above, & WLTM a pretty lady, dark haired with green eyes, London based, fun to be with enjoying all London has to offer, then reply with photo to Box 4514 ☎ ✍

ARE you a tall Gentleman, 50-60 with a Royal Ascot voucher. A tall elegant blonde also with a voucher is waiting to meet you. Berkshire area. Box No 4186 ✍

AYCKBOURN at the Arnaud. Lively attractive Surrey lady, 65, regular theatregoer, seeks gentleman partner for shared evenings. Reply Box No 4537 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

ARTICULATE, amusing, happy, well travelled 42 year old, variety of interests seeks content caring, civilised clever n/s gentleman for interesting sorties & possible friendship/ relationship Middlesex based Bx 4653 ☎ ✍

AT last, a woman not *looking for* marriage! Attractive, slim, 39ish lady with great sense of fun seeks male to enjoy having a laugh with. Yorkshire based. Photo with letter plse Bx 4649 ✍

BEAUTIFUL redheaded, green-eyed widow (with temperament to match!), slim, early 40's with very successful business background & lifestyle to match, creative, sincere & reliable. Enjoys the finer things in life. Incredible sense of humour. World travelled. WLTM a confident, fun loving, self assured, successful man with warmth & kindness & generous spirit. London based. Please reply with photo to Box No 4620 ☎ ✍

BLONDE, tall, slim & intellectually stimulating, pretty lady Francophile seeks warm, sporty, tall (5'11"+), N/S, successful gentleman, age 48-58. Southern Counties. Reply with photo to Box No 4515 ☎ ✍

BRIGHT bubbly strawberry blonde, 38 yrs old, articulate & attractive, creative, educated professional. Loves activity sports -horseriding, sailing but also the quiet moments, reading & walking. Seeking similar caring man (35-48) for a good laugh & cuddle. London/Home Counties. Please Reply with photo to Box No 4642 ☎ ✍

BRIGHTON, Worthing, Eastbourne, H. Heath & Horsham. The Executive Club at Brighton Marina 01273 818100 E.C.

BRIGHTON & Sussex - The Executive Club at Brighton Marina 01273 818100

BRISTOL area introductions. To meet that special someone locally call Chris 0117 973 6663 Elite get closer: 7 days

BUBBLY blue-eyed blonde, 37, slim, fun loving, easy going, divorced, happy in boots and jeans or little black dress and heels. Looking for a Marlboro man (NS!) who loves good food, wine, country pubs, dogs and horses and having a good time! You don't need to be a millionaire, professor or a gladiator, just a normal fun loving, cuddly guy, in or around East Anglia, although happy to travel for the right man. Reply with photo to Box No 4636 ✍

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
BOX No:- .....
c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD
P.O.BOX 3553.
VIRGINIA ST.
LONDON. E1 9GA

LADIES

SY the sea (N.Yorks), slim, 5'7" brunette maned beauty WLTM a gentleman 45-55ish who likes travel, culture, laughter to share with her & her warm, caring, sporty son (12) all the best things in life. Genuine replies. Recent photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 4659 ✍

CHOOSY? So are we. The UK's top unattached join The Executive Club of St James's

COMPROMISE or stay selective? It's the people we decline that made our reputation. E.C.

CULTURED, integrated & furthermore mature woman seeks similar man N/S. Preferably London area. Box No 4618 ✍

DETACHED 'Connery look alike' cocoa tin owner? With quality to appreciate, care and cherish fun loving quality brunette. Bespoke service essential. Raised curious to instinctively twig moody and messers, hence easily bored without the company of ones own genuine like minded lifes adventurer. In absence a runner, if feeling brave and lucky contact 'Little Indian' in confidence for each way chance of life's ultimate award. Please Reply Box 4623 ☎ ✍

DOG-friendly man with GSOH, fit, N/S, warmhearted (50-60) wanted by N.Kent based successful & attractive blonde widow who enjoys stimulating conversation, foreign/UK holidays, keeping fit & eating out. Photo appreciated. Box 4571 ☎ ✍

EAST LONDON/Essex Genuine man seeking a love for all seasons not a seasonal love. Elite Introductions freecall 0500 497775 or 01277 260180

ESHER and surrounding areas (KT/SM postcode). Why be alone when one phone call can put you in touch with gentlemen of like minds Call Elite Introductions 0181 547 2677

ESSEX lady, 53, solvent, 5'6" who is fun loving & enjoys the nice things in life, travel, dinner, theatre, country outings WLTM a nice, tall, solvent gentleman with similar outlook aged 48-55 to share these things together. Please Reply with photo to Box No 4547 ☎ ✍

FEMININE attractive lady, adaptable, humorous, n/s, interests both simple and sophisticated WLTM cultured, kindly man late 50s - 70s for lasting relationship. Sussex. Box 4385 ☎ ✍

EXCEPTIONAL Female. Warm, witty, graduate professional, cultured, 42 & single again seeks drop dead gorgeous male equivalent. Notts/Yorks. Photo please. Box No 4316 ☎ ✍

GREEN-EYED Optimist, lively, confident, arts prof (singer). (44). Enjoys classical music, theatre, countryside, foreign travel WLTM N/S, sincere professional, unattached gentleman (42-52) with similar outlook for friendship & romance. London. Please Reply with recent photo to Box 4548 ☎ ✍

IMMATURE, funloving, busy female, early 40s, living in Yorkshire, WLTM similar male for love & laughter. Please reply to Box no 4534 ✍

LADIES

HAPPY, intelligent, independent, slim, fair and attractive woman, 40, loves countryside, mountains, sea, classical music. Two children, would like more. Seeking kind, funny, intelligent, attractive man, 36-49. Hampshire/London. Photo essential. Reply Box No 4488 ✍

LADIES

INTUITIVELY intelligent appealingly attractive, wonderfully warm, emotionally exciting, admirably affluent lady seeks similar calibre male, 45+, must have active, professional career. South East Box 4606 ✍

LADIES

LOVELY warm, attractive single lady, 42 years, tennis/golf player seeks n/s gentleman for happy loving relationship leading to marriage and family life, would welcome genuine replies South East area Reply Bx 4558 ☎ ✍

LADIES

MAJOR distraction from election fever, then call this slim, green eyed blonde widow, humorous & tactile who seeks sincere prof male 45-60 for tennis, walking, skiing, theatre, dining out & adventure. Camb/ Beds/ North Hants. Photo please. Reply to Box No 4554 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

Put a *little* **spring** in your step!
Take out an ad in
Rendezvous.

Winter's over. So what are you waiting for?

Rendezvous now has a superb new telephone feature which is FREE for our advertisers. When you place your personal ad in Rendezvous, (at the special spring offer price of £5.88 per line and a box number charge of £11.75), you will receive simple instructions on how to record your free voice greeting*, and how to retrieve messages that have been left for you, also for free*.

The Times has always been the best place to meet other professional people, and our new telephone feature makes it faster and more effective than ever before. You'll still receive postal replies, but now you'll also have many more quality responses from our easy to use, confidential voice messaging system.

Meeting people has never been easier, call...
0171 481 4000
to place your ad

For help with your copy call Sylvia Gross on 0171 481 4000. Fax: 0171 481 9313 or E-mail, Pat.Ratcliffe@newsint.co.uk

NAME: ....
ADDRESS: ....
....
POSTCODE: .... TEL(DAY): ....
ACCESS ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ CARD NO: ....
EXPIRY DATE: .... SIGNATURE: ....

This offer is open to private advertisers only. Trade advertisers will appear subject to normal rates and conditions.
Please attach your wording and send to:
The Times Rendezvous, Classified Advertising, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BL.

THE TIMES

*The service provider (Tele-Publishing UK Ltd.) and The Times do not charge a fee for this service, however advertisers are billed at normal BT rates for 0990 calls. Cost per minute: 3p weekends, 6p evenings, 10p days.

A TRUE STORY

My name is Richard Alun Jenkins. Back in 1985 I could not find an introduction
service that I would join. They were small and rather 'down market'. So I set
about creating the best introduction service there has ever been. I built in all the
features I was looking for as a customer. Straight answers to my questions,
membership restricted to people you could be proud of, a minimum service
guarantee, a wide choice of top quality people, and a refund guarantee so there
was a way out if the service failed to meet my expectations.

The Executive Club was born. Since 1985 it has moved the boundaries of
introduction services from the 'sad and lonely' to a superb way successful people
meet each other. Top people were always introduced to each other. Changes in social structure and higher
lifestyle expectations mean that you need a wider choice of people from which to choose your soulmate.
The Executive Club of St James's is the best way I know of meeting quality people and has no equal.
Providing you can reach our screening standards we can offer you a superb choice of high quality
unattached people to meet. We can sit you down to dinner with attractive intelligent successful people.
We can't of course make them like you, for that you will need social skills and personality. We're
dedicated to allowing unattached professionals an unprecedented choice of dates so you may find your
soulmate. We are not for casual relationships. A prerequisite for membership is that you must be looking
for someone special.

Our members range from well spoken secretaries to international business people. We have 16 levels of
memberships ranging from £40 to £7,500 (one day's pay for some of our members).

If you would like to know more about the finest introduction service money can buy, please call and
talk to myself or one of my 24 dedicated staff.

0171 499 8833 9.30am to 9.30pm

Personal Introductions and a choice of over 60 social events a month.

TO RESPOND TO AN ADVERTISER with a voice message facility, simply call 0891 111 127 (Calls cost 50p per minute at all times) and then follow the simple voice instructions. Any printed advertisement in Rendezvous which has the ☎ symbol, indicates that the advertiser has the facility for you to leave him/her a voice message.

THE TIMES

LADIES

HIGHLY educated - romantic, adorable French girl (London based) - long blonde hair - slim, sporty. Tennis, skiing, shooting, horseriding. Artistic & feminine. Chanel French chic, sexy in jeans. Glamour & country. Cosmopolitan business life. WLTM tall, energetic gentleman, 37+ of similar education & material assets. A little eccentric & fun loving would be more than a plus. Please Reply to Box No 4608 ☎ ✍

IF you can't focus on Channel 5, then we have something in common already. This blue eyed curvaceous brunette (Jewish) WLTM a decent, kind, solvent man, aged 40-50 with blue jeans, a bottle of Margaux & a great ear for contemporary music. Wicked sense of humour essential. *Hair an advantage*, chemistry would be a dream. London based. Please send photo to Box 4652 ☎ ✍

INTELLIGENT attractive slim, 30ish blonde divorcee, seeks tall, successful genuine male, 35-45 for walks talks wine and dining + who knows? Surrey area Close Encounters Bx 4629

INDEPENDENT Blonde attractive business woman, humorous, intelligent, self sufficient, 40 years, loves theatre, countryside/ City life, good clothes & good food, seeks tall, athletic, witty, well-to-do 90's man, capable of intelligent conversation & the ability to chit-chat. West country. Photo appreciated. *Please* Reply to Box No 4689 ✍

KENT/Bromley/SE London. Looking for that special person? Why make 100 calls when one will do. Call Elite Introductions 0181 668 7576

LONDON lawyer, 41, Jewish, warm, sparkling, attractive seeks special man. Box 4437 ✍

MANX - based professional 37, petite, single mum. Articulate with GSOH, WLTM, genuine, N/S. Attractive gent, financially secure 30/40. Reply with photo Box No 4549 ✍

MEN! Men! 60 + we have over 500 ladies with style all local, in West Midlands and Warwickshire. Call Elite Introductions now: 7 days 0121 323 3314

MIDLANDS widow enjoys, walking, scrabble, antiques, cooking seeks n/s tall, genuine solvent man 48-59 for friendship/ lasting relationship Reply Bx 4396 ☎ ✍

MY heroic heart has not been made weak by time and fate. Lovely woman, 50, well divorced, travelled and independent, two grown children, two cats, longs for best friend to share weekends and holidays. Please Reply with photo to Box No 4518 ✍

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs Success after success for gentlemen. Elite get closer – Call now for free details 0115 937 6104

NOW that spring is here, how about a new companion? Lively, intelligent, good-looking lady with wide interests WLTM and have fun with N/S professional gentleman 50-65 with GSOH for lasting, loving relationship. London based. Please Reply to Box No 4638 ✍

OK - I give in. I'm divorced - done my purdah - now what? Where do *I* meet a man - 40 - 50 - solvent - intelligent but a bit wild? Me, tall (5'10), blonde, zany. Write with photo... you'd be a fool not to! Cotswolds/M4 corridor. Reply Box No 4534 ☎ ✍

OXFORD Berks and Wilts Why write to one gentleman when Elite have 100s waiting to meet you Call 0500 003444: 7 days

PARTIES and Introductions for professionals. *The Executive Club of St James's* estb. 1985

PROFESSIONAL? call the experts The Executive Club for the best service money can buy.

PROFESSIONAL Dublin lady, enjoys wining and dining, hill walking, golf, leisurely travel, attractive 60. No ties, free to travel, WLTM gentleman similar tastes. Please Reply to Box No 4348 ✍

REFINED English gentleman, with zest for life, mid 50s-early 60s Svengali type figure sought by beautiful sweet 34 yr old blonde, slim, fun personality, financially secure & independent hoping for the good things in life. Enjoys beautiful countryside, restaurants, parties, new people. London based. Photo please to Box No 4513 ☎ ✍

RICHMOND to Runnymede, Kew to Denham (all TW/UB postcodes) seeking that special person? let us help. Call Linda at Elite 0181 580 0028: 7 days

RUSSIAN lady, attractive, good figure, mature, independent, residing in New York/ London. Enjoys cooking, gardening, swimming. WLTM solvent, cultured gentleman 60+ for friendship possible marriage. Plse Reply to Bx 4574 ✍

RUSSIAN born lady interpreter, *36, English language grad of* Perm University, tall & slim, wishes long term romance with cultured gentleman. Bx 4371 ✍

SCOTLAND Tayside very feminine lady, slim, discerning, intelligent, attractive. Enjoys travel, candlelit dinners, intelligent conversation, seeks late 40/50s prof male for permanent relationship. Box No 4522 ☎ ✍

SINCERE Vietnamese lady, late 30's, resident in Saigon, would like to meet warm, kind hearted man for romance /marriage. Please Reply to Box No 4399 ✍

SLIGHTLY unusual classy Jewish lady, N/O, keen on arts, good food & travel seeks gentleman, 56+ for love & laughter. London based. Photo to Box 4655 ✍

SLIM, pretty woman, 34, graduate seeks really nice guy (35-40) London area. Interests: France, art, wine, travel. *Please reply* with photo to Box No 4581 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
Your outline...
...our detail

0800 141 141

LADIES

SURREY based attractive lady who enjoys fun, the arts, sport & life seeks tall professional N/S man 35+ to share it all. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4168 ✍

SURREY (KT/TW/GU) Gentlemen! for choices call Mike Close Encounters 01932 783165

TALL, dark & handsome, but broke, 30 yr old office clerk, GSOH, seeks funloving partner for good times. Interests (if had money) inc. fine wines, exotic holidays, theatre, sailing & country walks. Photo please. Box No 4487 ✍

TALL, slim, pretty graduate, Chinese lady, 28, 5'9", London seeks kind, witty prof man 30-45. Photo to Box No 4272 ✍

WANTED: Grownup male 35-55 affluent & successful, tall with active career, educated, interesting, cultured, gregarious. E Anglia/London for lady early 40's financially independent, slim, attractive, who likes fast cars, champagne & strawberry lifestyle. Reply to Box 4497 ✍

WIDOW 60's, slim, smart, loves animals, the countryside, cooking WLTM caring gentleman similar age for companionship, outings, etc. Cumbria. Photo appreciated. Reply Box 4615

WE provide the date, you provide the personality. E.C. introductions for winners

YORKSHIRE Humberside 100's of lovely ladies Elite Intros Freecall 0500 525240

STRAWBERRY blonde, slim, solvent Scorpio WLTM tall, tactile charmer, N/S, GSOH, under 60. *Love laughing*, the outdoors, theatre, etc. Wilts based. Photo please. ALA. Box No 4447 ✍

STYLISH slim attractive woman seeks friendship well presented youthful 60+, 5'9"+, cultured, prof man/grad. West/ Home Counties. Box 4241 ✍

SUPER personality, attractive, 40s, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, green eyes, medium build, educated, long term widow, super business lady (with brain), loving WLTM truly outstanding male soulmate (unattached) with breadth and achievement, thoughtful, humorous, kind, decidedly solvent, for unwinding, relaxing, caring and sharing life's enjoyments. Berks area. Please write. Photo much appreciated. Box No 4201 ✍

TALL, beautiful, sporty, well spoken, outgoing girl needs a quietly, wealthy, equivalent boy, 45-55. Loves tennis, London, entertaining, events, *log fires, good food & country* pubs. Box No 4373

TALL, slim, pretty graduate, Chinese lady, 28, 5'9", London seeks kind, witty prof man 30-45. Photo to Box No 4272 ✍

TWO gorgeous quality brunettes (business consultant & university lecturer), petite, athletic, warm. Seek pair of unattached well educated, fun loving gentlemen (28-35) for friendship/ fun. Cambs. based. Reply with background, interests & photo please to Box No 4493 ✍

UNPRETENTIOUS, slim, blonde beauty, 30's looking to restore equilibrium & WLTM extraordinary man 35-48 with integrity + other qualities - lover of the countryside, likes & understands children & family values, in tune with himself & others, spontaneous, loving & romantic but also vibrant, exciting & SOH would help. London/ Southeast/ anywhere. Reply with photo to Box 4168 ✍

VERY tall, classy prof woman (28) who is slim, fit, attractive, loving, honest, romantic, lots of fun and wondering why she is advertising, seeks confident, solvent, businessman to put the twinkle in her eyes. Are you him? North West/willing to travel. Photo plse Box 4454 ☎ ✍

WELL travelled attractive, early 30s, sporty/outdoor girl, WLTM intelligent, attractive prof n/s man 30-40 with similar interests. Solent/South Plse reply with photo to Box 4467 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

Across The Room
Dinner and Dances
Cocktail Parties
Personal Introductions
Herts Essex Suffolk
Cambs Kent
Ask for Brochure
Call Ellie 01277 352 742

Even though you have an interesting job and a busy social life, a truly compatible partner can still be hard to find. We can help.
Free Details to Chilgrove
Write to 25 Abingdon Rd London W8 6AL or Call
01869 324 100
Est.1966. ABIA member
http://www.dateline.uk.com
Dateline

ASSIGNATIONS
Lesley Hudson-Jessop
(ex Professional Headhunter)
Home interviews and professional skills lead to tailor made introductions
LONDON AND M4 CORRIDOR
01225 482905

LADIES

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

WE provide the date, you provide the personality. E.C. introductions for winners

WOMAN of depth, integrity and character who, whilst acquiring natural warmth, grace and charm, also believes beauty on the outside can only be matched by beauty on the inside - seeks her best friend. A man of strength, substance, kindness, loyalty and humour. Self sufficient yet looking for that special person with who *he* can connect and enrich *his* life. You will not be disappointed. I am in my early thirties, beautiful, happy and value life, love and relationships yet still looking for that special someone - so rare - with whom to share. WTTM, Midlands/ Anywhere. Reply Box No 4279 ✍

GENTLEMEN

ANDOVER/Salisbury 25 mile radius. Only your kind of people at Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open 7 days

ARE you a good looking, sophisticated, feminine lady, under 35 who desires the good things in life in a permanent relationship, then this very attractive, happy, affluent, strong minded businessman, aged 44 WLTM you for dining out, theatre & travel. Photo & tel no. appreciated London/ Home counties but willing to travel. Reply to Box No 4445 ☎ ✍

ARE you a 25-35ish fit fun loving active, slim, country minded equestrian lady who also enjoys travel and WLTM successful, caring, 38 year old with similiar interests I'd love to hear from you. Photo appreciated. Midlands *Box* 4525 ✍

ARTICULATE, warm, loving, good looking Englishman, 43, ready to share his life and make that ultimate partnership with a lovely, petite and slim woman. Ideally she will have a kind, loving, sincere & earthy personality Nationality unimportant Plse contact me with recent photo/phone number mine by return Home Counties Bx 4392 ☎ ✍

ARTICULATE outgoing 41, prof caring gentleman, slim, fit, single, interests include hill walking and skiing WLTM similiar lady 26-35 with view to marriage and family Bx 4528 ☎ ✍

BRIGHTON, Worthing, Eastbourne, H. Heath & Horsham. The Executive Club at Brighton Marina 01273 818100 E.C.

ATTRACTIVE, tall London based managing director just 50, loves travel, sport and all the good things in life is looking to share same with attractive woman between 35/40. Photo essential. Box No 4609 ✍

BRIGHTON & Sussex - The Executive Club at Brighton Marina 01273 818100

BRISTOL, West Country, S Wales - interesting, intelligent personal intros Caroline Crowther 01179 735877

BRISTOL area introductions. To meet that special someone locally call Chris 0117 973 6663 Elite get closer: 7 days

BUSY, tall, slim, professional & successful man, visual & articulate seeks tall, slim, independent princess (35+), who's warm & tactile. London based. Photo please to Box No 4519 ☎ ✍

CAMBS male, 48, slim 6', varied interests seeks a mature busty female. Reply to Box 4468 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

WANTED
21st Century Men together enough to wine & dine with elegant ladies at Londons top restaurants
Call Eleanor on
01442 879074
Exclusive Social Dining Club

"DOYENNE OF MATCHMAKERS.."
KATHARINE ALLEN
Marriage Bureau
Established 1960
18 Thayer St,
London W1M 5LD
0171 935 3115

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

Country Partners
Well respected bureau for intelligent professional people from town & country. Interviews take place locally or in London.
Tel MRS HEBER PERCY
01432 342204 24hrs
Code of practice supported by OFT
ABIA Est 15yrs

GENTLEMEN

CARING Dublin man, well educated, own home, separated, aged 50, enjoys sports, travel etc. GSOH seeks lady for friendship/relationship aged 35-45. Photo please. Reply to Box No 4472 ✍

CHESHIRE Solicitor, 35. RC, tall, Irish roots, enjoys walking, golf, tennis, fresh air, red wine & sometimes lazy weekends. Seeks slim, successful lady who can also laugh at herself. Please Reply to Box No 4466 ✍

CHESTER male 37, successful, independent, honest, good natured with a warm personality and smile. Tall, dark, good looking seeks a very attractive slender single lady with no ties who is elegant, stylish and intelligent for mutual communication & possible romance. Please Reply by letter & essential photograph to Box No 4614 ✍

CHOOSY? So are we. The UK's top unattached join The Executive Club of St James's

COMPROMISE or stay selective? It's the people we decline that made our reputation. E.C.

COUNTRY Pubs, Caribbean cruising, theatre, diving, classic car racing, fruit de mer, sailing, all great fun for this fit 50 year old financially independent early retired 'Country look alike' but could be all the better if shared with a brave, bright, tactile, unencumbered 30 something year old lady living central south and ready for lifes next adventure. Photo appreciated. *Please* Reply to Box No 4377 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

EAST ANGLIAN graduate seeks similar female. N/S 45+, for mild classic car rallies and more civilised pursuits. Please reply Box No 4690 ✍

EAST LONDON/Essex Genuine ladies seeking a *love* for all seasons not a seasonal love. Elite Introductions freecall 0500 497775/01277 260180

EDUCATED, prof, sincere young at heart, slim, fit, 50+ (5'10) WLTM attractive, petite, tactile, warm *fun* loving partner 40+ for close relationship. Romantic evenings, country walks, travel theatre & lots more Photo please Box 4529 ☎ ✍

QUASIMODO
SEEKS
ESMERELDA
FOR 1-2-1 -
PERHAPS
EVEN
WEDDING
BELLS.

GENTLEMEN

ESHER and surrounding areas (KT postcode). Why be alone when one phone call can put you in touch with discerning ladies of like minds. Call Elite Introductions 0181 547 2577

ESSEX/HERTS (But highly mobile) Civilised Scot, rough diamond, young 55, *N/S*, self employed, 6', average build, public schools/graduate, loyal, kind, generous & loving with VGSOH, strong personality. Likes children, log fires, big dogs, country living, France, music (not G&S), stockings, entertaining, *classic* sports cars & home. Dislikes dancing, authority, Streisand & Grossman! WLTM warm, sensitive, intelligent, solvent, N/S punctual lady 40-55. Laughter guaranteed & who knows what may develop? Personality more important than photo. Please Reply to Box No 4651 ✍

GREEK businessman shares his time between London, Cyprus and a luxury motor yacht in the Med. Considered to be very good looking, charming definitely, refined, articulate, well mannered, solvent and fun loving mid forties seeks intelligent, beautiful, slim, sporty, well spoken, outgoing younger girl for a summer (and beyond) of passion and romance. Photo welcome. Reply to Box No 4607 ☎ ✍

HANDSOME & very successful guy, genuine sense of humour, 30's, 5'9" WLTM a most attractive, slim, easy going, intelligent lady in 20's, early 30's who desires a relationship based on trust & sharing the enjoyable things in life. Photo please. Mids/anywhere. Please reply to Box 4621 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

Sara Eden
PERSONAL INTRODUCTIONS
"A stunning success rate... Countless long term relationships"
MAIL ON SUNDAY
"A file of grateful letters and a wall full of wedding photographs"
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY
Head Office ~ Eden House ~ 38 Thames Street ~ Windsor ~ SL4 1PR
Windsor: 01753 830350 London: 0171 499 9626
Established 1988 Member ABIA

VIRGINIA
CHARLES
The exclusive introduction agency for people of quality and integrity

The Old Brewery, Burford,
Oxfordshire OX18 4SG

Telephone
01993 824500

LONDON AND NATIONWIDE

GENTLEMEN

HOVE lawyer, fat, 44 & with false teeth but otherwise honest, solvent & generally an OK guy seeks kind, caring but fun younger lady for friendship & perhaps more. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 4553 ✍

IF you would like to meet a pleasant "normal" gentleman who will treat you like a lady, then please read further. However, if you are looking for either Superman or Rambo, sorry, look elsewhere! I'm 38, tall and slim and have a wide variety of interests, in particular, I enjoy living in the countryside, walking, gardening, music and good food and wine. I'm neither looking for a super model or a Superwoman, all I want to do is meet a nice "normal" feminine lady, 28-40, N/S, living within 50 miles W. Hert with a view to a serious relationship. Reply with a suitable letter to Box No 4366 ✍

I'M gregarious n/s, fit, tactile, successful City man 45, WLTM leggy educated lady who wears short skirts and high heels for nice relationship Box No 4688 ☎ ✍

INDEPENDENT, handsome well travelled professional man, 37, 5/10, music lover, warm, sensitive, creative, and enthusiastic about life! Seeks similar n/s lady around 30 for lasting relationship. London based. Photo appreciated Reply Box No 4631 ☎ ✍

INTERNATIONAL businessman living in central London and working in the South of France, Los Angeles and Singapore is looking for that special girl to share his good life. I am free, mature and sophisticated, I love travel, theatre, restaurants and clubs. You must be outgoing and very attractive aged under 32. Photo and phone number essential please. Please Reply to Box No 4331 ✍

KENT/Bromley/SE *London*. Looking for that special person? Why make 100 calls when one will do. Call Elite Introductions 0181 668 7576

LADIES phone now! W Midlands/ Warwickshire over 500 local genuine clients call Elite Introductions 0121 323 3314

NO more weekends alone, a successful, stylish, attractive N/S man (London based), 50's asks you, a special woman, to stop reading the ads & answer. Quality not quantity. Photo & phone no. essential please. Box 4639 ✍

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs Success after success for ladies. Elite get closer – Call now for free details 0115 937 6104

ON OFFER: professional man with unique & fascinating profession as well as delightful London home seeks magical, lasting & loving relationship with an attractive, sensual lady, ideal age 25-45. Box 4670 ☎ ✍

OPERA-LOVING man, also likes art, theatre, dinner, young 42, eccentric & fun, seeks gorgeous, like-minded lady with opera gloves. London/South. Please Reply to Box No 4631 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

OXFORD Berks and Wilts Why write to one lady when Elite have 100s waiting to meet you Call 0500 003444: 7 days

PARTIES and Introductions for professionals. The Executive Club of St James's estb. 1985

PERSONABLE county gentleman, 56, divorced, adult children, seeks unencumbered, educated, independent county lady to share country pursuits, preferably Hants/Devon area. Please Reply to Box No 4551 ✍

PROFESSOR wanted 49-57 by London lawyer - or any other well-educated, attractive, good-natured woman, ideally also liking reading newspapers, books, music, art, film, France, cooking & wine. Please conquer your reluctance to write & reply with a photograph to Box No 4572

PROFESSIONAL male, 37, 5'6", slim, environmental interests, living in Kent seeks intelligent compatible single female. Please Reply to Box No 4592 ☎ ✍

PROFESSIONAL? Call the experts The Executive Club for the best service money can buy

PROF male 32 WLTM affectionate attractive n/s female 24-34 for wining, dining and travel. Burton on Trent Photo would be appreciated Reply Bx. 4560 ☎ ✍

REBELLIOUS, chaotic, loving Oxbridge author, mid 60's offers self & collapsing Tudor cottage nr Stratford on Avon to spoil educated, tactile woman over 45 long term. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box 4693 ☎ ✍

RICHMOND to Runnymede, Kew to Denham (all TW/UB postcodes) seeking that special person? let us help. Call Linda at Elite 0181 580 0028: 7 days

SENSITIVE Upper Class girl 20s/30s, n/s, sought by eminently suitable tall Oxbridge widower. Wife sadly died aged 34, daughter 15. Old enough to be your father but full of go. Listed house, Kent village. Distance unimportant. Total love, loyalty. Everybody would approve. *Nobody* need *ever* know Reply to Box No 4655 ☎ ✍

SOUTH YORKS man late thirties WLTM lady for Mayni walks and pleasant times. Please Reply to Box No 4664 ✍

SUCCESSFUL international businessman seeks sophisticated lady. He - handsome, highly educated, London based & 39. She must be sparky with a flair for living who loves to travel, wine & dine & is aged 22-32. Please provide photo & tel no. to Box No 4647 ☎ ✍

SUMMER Romance on my beautiful Greek island. Me: young 45, 5'10" tall & dark, slim, light brown eyes, well travelled (lived in UK 28 yrs) deep, adaptable & fun loving. You: be yourself, max 40. Currently in London. Photo & tel no's plse. Reply Box No 3791 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

★ DOCTORS • ARCHITECTS • LAWYERS • MARKETING • WRITERS • COMPUTING ★

drawing down *the* moon
The original personalised introduction agency
Est.1984
PROBABLY THE BEST AGENCY IN THE WORLD
Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington
0171-937 6263
24 hours
Member ABIA

MEDIA • BANKERS • ARTISTS • SCIENTISTS ★ ACTORS • PUBLISHING • STOCKBROKING • ADVERTISING • ACADEMICS ★ MUSICIANS • ACCOUNTANTS • DESIGNERS

GENTLEMEN

SOMEWHERE, hopefully, there is a delightful, good looking, vivaceous, N/S, romantic lady with a lovely smile & manner who is active & enjoys life to the full with GSOH. A little sophistication touched with elegance & style with the right chemistry will bring back that real sparkle & a new meaning into a lasting relationship full of affection & TLC. Enjoying each other's company from pillow talk to drying dishes or walking in the Lake District or walking in Sainsburys. It's the sharing that makes it all worthwhile whilst encompassing romance, music, theatre, dancing, countryside, walking, travel, the home & much more. This retired Cheshire widower, very young looking (looks fiftyish) & active in his middle sixties, slim(ish), 5'8" with a good life style would appreciate a genuine reply with a recent photo from that lovely lady allowing the sun to rise once again. Please Reply to Box No 4337 ✍

SUCCESSFUL, career minded woman sought by handsome entrepreneur to merge diaries. Please Reply to Box No 4634 ☎ ✍

TENDER, tall, tactile, Celtic, intense, caring, successful forties man seeks exciting, positive, romantic, daring, crazy woman to share Mozart, Morrison, sunsets, sailing, down rides on the beach, early nights, passion forever & ever. Southwest/anywhere. Photo please. Reply to Box No 4643

THINKING man (39) seeks brainy lady. Interests: Art, films, travel, passion. London based. Please Reply to Box No 4578 ☎ ✍

WE provide the date, you provide the personality. E.C. introductions *for* winners.

YORKSHIRE Humberside 100's of stylish gentlemen Elite Intros Freecall 0500 525240

YOU are intelligent, witty, energetic, well spoken & hate wimps. You want a caring, self confident, successful, adventurous, travelled, sporting man (London based) who has got his act together. I'm 6 ft, 44, optimistic, & no ties. Send photo & go for him! Reply Box No 4318 ✍

YOU'RE mid 20s to mid 30s. You're professional and hard working, but able to let your hair down. You're self confident but not brash. You have a Christian outlook on life. You're happy and content, but know life could be better if shared with someone similar. Sounds like you? Southern based bachelor, 30, would love to hear from you. Box No 4695 ✍

SANE, sensitive, slim, still handsome seeks elegant, attractive 40's lady in N London/Herts, who's not always that sane! Please Reply with photo to Box No 4353 ✍

TALL, slim, attractive, solvent widow of quality, 53-67, sought by cultured, well educated, male equivalent now retiring from running his own company. Southern country based. He is interested in worldwide holidays, all sports, dancing, swimming, cards, country, gardens & much more. Please Reply with photo to Box No 4482 ✍

THIS IS my Indian Summer! Business gentleman 54 seeks younger slim, N/S lady (for permanent relationship/ marriage) to persuade me to semi retire/ retire and enjoy the finer things of life, preferably in a warm comfortable climate. Sincerity and a sense of humour is important. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4404

TREE MAN, Denbighshire, own land, 43, 6 ft, slim, English, divorced, one 13 yr daughter. Seeks bright, funny, attractive jeans/jersey/wellies female under 40, preferably living nearby. Interests: countryside, sunshine, fresh soup, strolling, laughing & pitted prunes. Photo & tel no. appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4217 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

Perfect Harmony
DINING CLUB
For Single Business and Professional People
Join us at our Dinner and Dance Party at The Langham Hilton Portland Place W1 on Saturday 3rd May and make new friends of the opposite sex.
Tel 01923 840441

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
BOX No:- .....
c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD
P.O.BOX 3553,
VIRGINIA ST.
LONDON, E1 9GA

GENTLEMEN

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday & *Sunday Call free* 0800 141 141

WARM, loving, good-looking & cuddly Jewish male 55 who is based in NW London seeks a similar N/S lady 46-51 *for a* wonderful future. Photo apprec. Box No 4164 ☎ ✍

WE have been retained by a very successful, good looking and discerning gentleman in his early forties to find for him an extremely attractive - preferably with dark hair and brown eyes, stylish and feminine partner who would fit easily into his sophisticated lifestyle whilst still retaining a love for the more simple pleasures. She must be under 35, over 5'6" tall, a non smoker with no children and an animal lover. Cotswolds based would also be preferable! Please call, Virginia, in complete confidence on 01993 824500 or write enclosing a recent photograph to : Virginia Charles The Old Brewery Burford, Oxon. OX18 4SG

PROFESSIONAL man, 35, single, solvent; likes sport, art & travel. Seeks like minded woman 27-35. Letter + photo. London. Reply to Box No 4288 ☎ ✍

PROFESSIONAL, single, n/s (52) WLTM elegant, English Rose (35-45) whose interests include fine Arts, music, health. London/ Home Counties. Box No 4268 ✍

RECENTLY separated Mayfair businessman, N/S WLTM an attractive lady in her early 40's, N/S. Please Reply with recent photograph & tel. number to Box No 4267 ✍

RICHMOND to Runnymede, Kew to Denham (all TW/UB postcodes) seeking that special person? let us help. Call Linda at Elite 0181 580 0028: 7 days

SEPARATED professional good looking male 37 currently based in Bahamas (interest travel, triathlon, golf, tennis, diving etc). Seeks slim, attractive female (non smoker, no children), age 28-35 to help him enjoy life in the sunshine. Please write enclosing recent photo(s) to Box No 4328 ✍

SOMEWHERE, hopefully, there is a delightful, good looking, vivaceous, N/S, romantic lady with a lovely smile & manner who is active & enjoys life to the full with GSOH. A little sophistication touched with elegance & style with the right chemistry will bring back that real sparkle & a new meaning into a lasting relationship full of affection & TLC. Enjoying each other's company from pillow talk to drying dishes or walking in the Lake District or walking in Sainsburys. It's the sharing that makes it all worthwhile whilst encompassing romance, music, theatre, dancing, countryside, walking, travel, the home & much more. This retired Cheshire widower, very young looking (looks fiftyish) & active in his middle sixties, slim(ish), 5'8" with a good life style would appreciate a genuine reply with a recent photo from that lovely lady allowing the sun to rise once again. Please Reply to Box No 4337 ✍

SPANISH, affectionate, sincere, honest, caring man, fit (52) & very lonely. I enjoy theatre, antiques, sports. My heart is full of love for a genuine long term relationships. Please write, you will not regret it. South Coast. Box No 4323 ☎ ✍

SUSSEX man, 42, 6'1", professional, slim, energetic, sporty (enjoys golf & squash) looking for intelligent, attractive, slender lady, 30-45. Reply with photo to Box No 4263 ✍

SWEDISH MALE 30 yrs, Blonde, Blue eyed, fun loving, wants female crew mate to sail to Caribbean Islands from June onwards. Send letter & photo to Ingvar Anderson, Murarегatan 13a, 43166, Mölndal, Sweden. Tel: 00 46705141515.

TALL, dark, handsome, & incredibly solvent, GSOH, 30 year old managing director (London based) seeks fun loving partner for romance. Interests include: exotic holidays, theatre, sailing & country walks. Photo please to Box No 4281 ✍

GAY H/SOME Ital, 35, witm ret'd educ man (50+) who loves Italy. Tel/Photo ess. Box No 4296 ✍

GAY MEN Escape the scene! Let us introduce you to bright attractive gay men at our dinner parties/events. As featured on National TV/Radio. OUT & OUT (London) 0181 723 9245

GAY men London/Home Counties seeking long term relationships - ring Significant Others - the gay intro bureau for professionals. 0171 494 0009

GAY top executive, 52, big build, cosmopolitan, assertive yet gregarious & affectionate, seeks younger man 25-35 of a *caring genuine nature, for fun/* happiness, companionship and hopefully much more to take "under his umbrella". Please write with photograph in strict confidence. Reply to Box 4561 ✍

PROF gay man, S. Wales, 49 & fit. Very presentable, caring & fun loving (non effem). Photo appreciated. Box No 4564 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

SIRIUS
ALTOGETHER MORE FUN

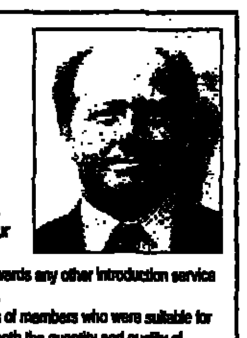
Intelligent, articulate and well educated?
Want new friends and fun evenings?
Free Trial Membership
No Fees – No Obligation !
Free Info Pack
0800 072 0075
Security is important - why take chances?
All members are interviewed in their own homes.
Cert 9530013
Or Write to FREEPOST 305 London EC1B 1SY
8.30am to 10.30pm 7 days/week
Including Bank Holidays

TRYST
"The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two substances; if there is any reaction both are transformed". - C.J. JUNG
If you are single, successful and financially stable, and wanting to meet that special someone. Then why not contact **HELEN SPAIN** of ***TRYST INTRODUCTION BUREAU*** for a private discussion about your expectations and how our many years experience and successful matches can be used for your benefit.
Tel: 01568 708554 anytime inc. weekends & evenings

31A St James's Square London SW1
The EXECUTIVE *Club*
Since 1985 people of quality have been introduced through our exclusive social events and superb introduction service. We invite membership to complement almost certainly the largest selection of unattached professionals in the UK.
● *Personal introductions* ● *Social events*
http://www.executiveclub-uk.com/exec
0171 499 8833

WHY US?
Quite simply, it's the near unlimited choice of high quality members. We guarantee you the choice from AT LEAST 25 matched members in three months or REFUND YOUR FEE. (Others may offer to extend your membership period even if you have only had one date in a year). You are a member for life. Try us for six weeks and if YOU don't agree we are the finest service there is, we'll refund your fee towards any other dating service in the world – such is the quality of our service; and a choice of over forty social events each month.
THE BEST THERE IS – OR YOUR FEE REFUNDED
UK ASSOCIATE OFFICES: Dublin, Nottingham, Sheffield, Bristol, Cambridge, Hertford, Derby, Chester London, Brighton, York, Tun. Wells

I'M CHRIS



I used to work for one of the largest introduction agencies in the U.K. Our members kept asking me:
Why won't you refund our fees towards any other introduction service in Europe? The Executive Club will.
Why didn't you show me the details of members who were suitable for me before I joined, so I could see both the quantity and quality of members you actually had? The Executive Club will.
Why do you only promise to extend my membership until I have had 6 *introductions even if I have only been offered one person in a whole* year? If The Executive Club ever failed to offer at least 25 members in my first 4 months to choose my dates from, they would apologise and refund all my money.
Why are your contracts covered in small print? The Executive Club *doesn't have any small print!*
Why do you expect me to travel 100 miles to meet people when The Executive Club considers 25 miles more than enough?
I am now a Consultant to The Executive Club and I was truly amazed at the quantity and quality of their members. I can honestly say, if you *are of the quality to be accepted, I believe their service to be in a* league of its own and the finest available in Europe.
Signed,
Chris
0171 499 88 33

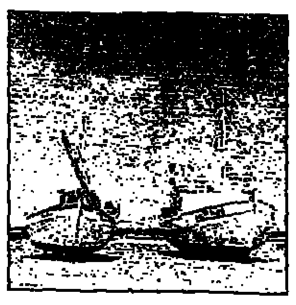
SOCIAL
DINNER DATES
Need a good tonic? Try our Dinner Parties, Buffets, Special Events
● Henley ● Ascot ● Polo ● Golf ● Tennis ● Clay Pigeon Shoots
● Go-Karting etc & holidays to Turkey and the Greek Islands
Phone for our FREE BROCHURE
Tel: 0181 741 1252 (London)
0181 658 9441 (S.E)
7,000 mbrs Est 9 yrs

APRIL ALONE?
Life could be more fun if you call
Candleburners!
Personal introductions and Enchanted Evenings for attractive, professional people.
Please call Cheryl Brown
Est. 1990 0171 371 5535

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

WANT A DATE?
RING THE TIMES 0171 481 4000

هكذا من [illegible]



The view from the slow lane in Denmark

Baltic · 19

THE TIMES

travel

Where it's party time every night

Bahamas · 18

Chile: Built last century to recreate the Gallic capital, Santiago is a world away from panchos and pan-pipes

The Paris that is handy for the Andes

IMAGE BANK

In Santiago during the late afternoon, between siesta and fiesta, there is a lot of sitting on benches, playing chess or strolling through leafy squares

The clocks strike ten *and the men in the* high black boots click their heels. From far down a side street, brassy march music reaches towards the waiting crowd. An officer twirling a mace leads his military band across the square. The euphoniums blast out *Colonel Bogey*. They're changing the guard at the *Moneda Palace in Santiago*.

The palace — pillared, presi*dential*, 19th *century* — is a testament to Chile's recent history. Its long front wall is scarred by patched-up pockmarks inflicted by shells and bombs when General Pinochet staged his military coup in 1973. President Salvador Allende made his last stand inside — wearing a tin helmet and defending himself with a machine gun presented by *Fidel Castro. "Long live Chile!" he cried in his last radio broadcast.* "Long live the people! Long live the workers!"

But Pinochet took over and for 16 years Chile was effectively wiped off the world tourism map. "Do you remember the days when it wasn't politically correct to buy Chilean onions?" asks a bearded Briton as bayonets are fixed and swords sheathed.

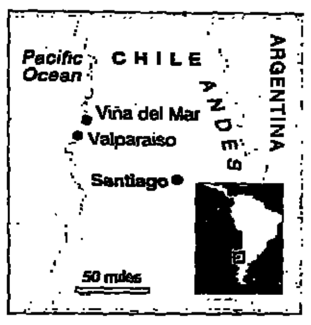
Now, since the 1989 democratic elections, Chile is welcoming western *tourists again* and *onions are back on the menu*. The old advice "Don't get caught in cross-fire" no longer applies. The instant image is ponchos and pan pipes — and there are plenty of those in the rural areas of this trailing ribbon of a country that the Andes have almost edged into the ocean.

But there's another Chile. And Santiago is a good place to sample it. *Leave* Colonel Bogey *and stroll across to the square in front of the cathe*dral. *In late afternoon*, between siesta and fiesta, old men in homburgs are feeding pigeons and street photographers with cameras as big as ovens are touting for custom.

In the warm autumn sunlight, poplar trees shed yellow leaves and pavement artists are tactfully slimming down chubby children. A woman *in* a white coat checks *businessmen's blood pressure.*

There's a *lot of strolling* and *sitting on benches* and playing chess and listening to a man with a beard full enough to grow mushrooms. He is shouting Protestant sermons in front of the Catholic cathedral, where the confession boxes have neat lace curtains and Moses' finger points to the Seventh *Commandment, the* one about adultery.

Take the passageway a few yards along and cross cobbled courtyards full of melon trees and wooden statues of Christ as a Spanish fisherman. In the relics corner is a dimly-lit glass case packed with saints' leg bones. St Clement's tibia, St Vincent's fibula, St Jucundi's something — can't tell what, but he must have limped badly. There are plenty of saints' legs because there are plenty of saints — St Edith, St Nelson, St Aida, even St Sandra, bless her.



FACT FILE

- British Airways (0345 222111) flies direct from *London to Santiago three times a week*. Prices start from £1,091 return. Flights booked through Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) start at £655 with BA, *excluding taxes*.
- JLA offers a Santiago package, *with six nights at the Hyatt Regency and* return flights with BA from £994 per person sharing a twin room. It includes breakfasts and transfers, a *city tour and tours of* Valparaiso and Viña del Mar.
- *The best time to visit is* September to May, with December to March the warmest months. June to August are the best months *for seeing wildlife*.
- UK passport holders do not need *visas*. No *vaccinations are required*, but it is recommended that typhoid, polio, tetanus and hepatitis A be obtained if travelling in rural areas.
- Reading. The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Chile Handbook*, Charlie Nurse (Footprint, £10.99). *Travels in a Thin Country*, Sara Wheeler (Abacus, £7.99). *The House of Spirits*, Isabel Allende (Black Swan, £6.99).

With *its parks and gardens, its wide* boulevards, its street cafés and its central river, Santiago could just about pass as Paris — which is exactly what the people who built it last century wanted. They commissioned Eiffel, of Tower fame, to design grand public *buildings* and a railway *station* now used — like the Museé d'Orsay — *as an exhibition centre. They* stuffed the ships from France with crystal chandeliers and gold leaf. They wanted to recreate a little bit of Europe in the Andes.

As Hugo, our guide, says: "Here in Chile, we are very far from the rest of the world." From the 16th century, the Spanish conquerors suppressed the native Indian culture and developed a cosmopolitan outlook. Hugo's grandparents were *Spanish, Italian, French and German* — but he says Chileans are called the British of South America. Reserved, polite, sober. Fiestas can be a touch formal.

For British, now read American. Santiago happily embraces the Cola-isation of the globe. The young wear baseball caps, back to front, and *blow bubblegum. The shopping malls are stacked with Barbies and "mini-blenders — just like mum's"*. And, despite one of the world's most efficient Metro systems, there are cars everywhere. High mountains surround the city and glow a stunning pink at sunset. But they trap pollution. A plan to encourage throughwinds by chopping off their top 1,000 feet was abandoned. *Car use is now rota-rationed. "There is so much rush," says* Hugo. *"There are as many taxis here as in New York."*

Even so, first-time visitors are more likely to be struck by the city's clean, green elegance. It has style and charm and, in El Naturista, one of the best vegetarian restaurants in a country where non-meat-eaters are indulged as *halfwits. Meat and fish are piled high at every meal.*

You can watch the fish being landed at Valparaiso, Chile's second city — 80 miles north of Santiago past 47 Coca-Cola hoardings and countless roadside shrines to accident victims. Pelicans swoop, their beaks snapping like tailors' shears, as the fishermen land swordfish and sea bass from bright yellow boats for gutting on the shore.

Valparaiso is the Marseilles of Chile, bohemian and rather scruffy in the way ports can be — too busy to bother with the peeling paintwork. Steep cobbled streets, twisting flights of steps and funicular railways surround a central square lined with palm trees and magnolias.

The city was a great British *centre last century. Hence the* Queen Victoria Hotel, the Avenue Grand Bretagne and the graves on the highest hill in the cemetery for "Los Dissidentes". Study the memorial to the wondrously named Lushington Goodwin and have a drink in one of the British bars *where local groups imitate the Beatles.*

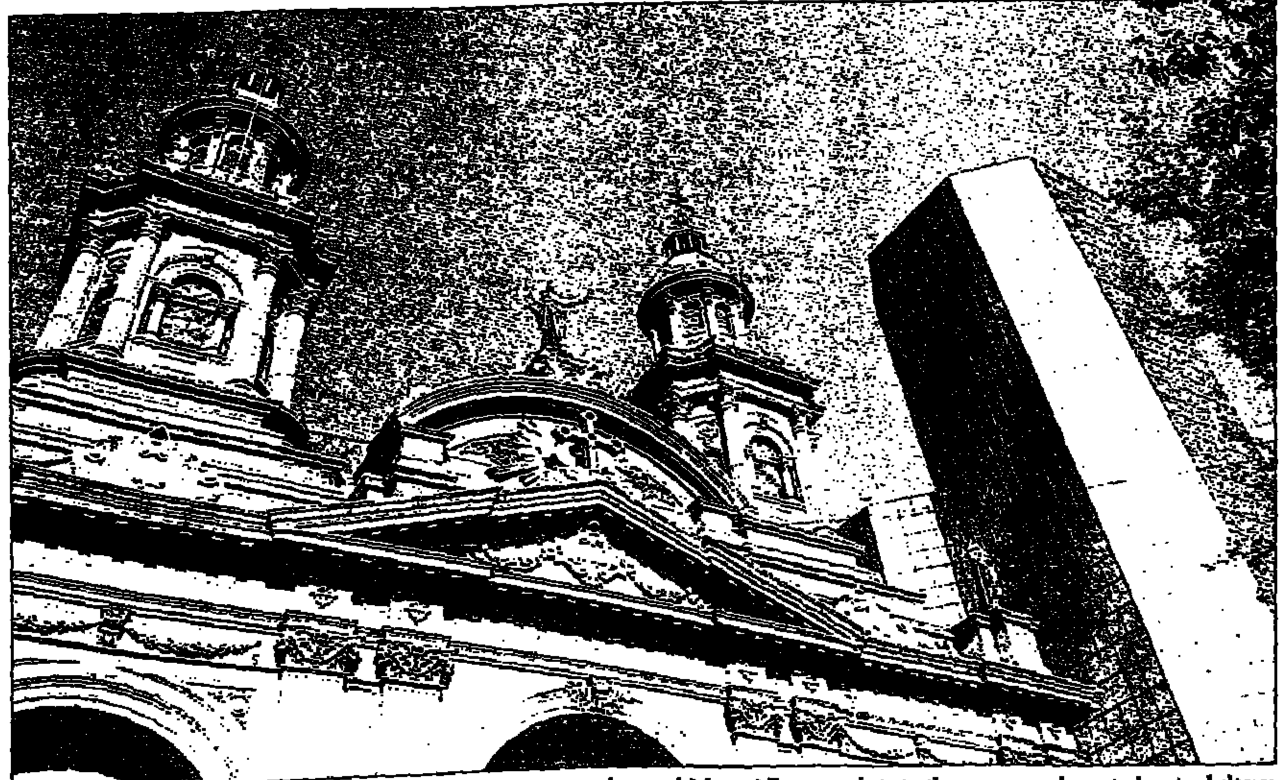
Around the bay is Viña del Mar, *more* Monaco than Marseilles. It's an ever-expanding beach resort, popular with Santiago weekenders and full of luxury apartment blocks. It has horse-drawn broughams, a restaurant that plays *Don't Cry for Me Argentina* and a football team called Everton *(sharing a ground* with Santiago Wanderers).

Couples canoodle on the beach. The Pacific waves break spectacularly. Gulls dive-bomb fish. And a couple of hundred miles beyond the glistening horizon is the island where the original Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked. And not a poncho or a pan pipe in sight.

STEPHEN McCLARENCE

- *The author was a guest of Journey Latin America and British Airways.*

JASON P. HOWE



In the cathedral the confession boxes have neat lace curtains and Moses' finger points to the commandment about adultery

A TRAVELPLANNERS PROMOTION

Fall Foliage Mountain Majesty

- Historic Virginia
- North Carolina
- Washington DC

From £679 per person*

Prices and departure dates

15th October 1997 £679*
16th October 1997 £679*
22nd October 1997 £679*
23rd October 1997 £679*

*United States departure tax not included (currently USD30 - approx £20). Single room supplement £199

Included:

- Scheduled flights on Virgin Atlantic
- UK Airport Departure Tax (currently £10)
- 8 nights hotel accommodation (based upon twin accommodation)
- Shenandoah National Park
- Baggage handling
- Luxury air-conditioned coaches
- English speaking escort/guide
- Entrances to Lurary Caverns
- Entrance to Monticello
- Natural Bridge
- Local sightseeing tours

The Itinerary

Day 1: Depart London airport for Washington DC. On arrival Washington airport you will be met by your escort and transferred to your hotel.
Day 2: Day at leisure. Optional tour Washington DC
Day 3: Depart Washington for Richmond. Tour Richmond.
Day 4: Depart Richmond for Asheville via Durham.
Day 5: Local tour to see Chimney Rock and Folk Art Centre. In the afternoon optional tour to Biltmore estate.
Day 6: Depart Asheville for Charlottesville via Natural Bridge via the Blue Ridge Parkway.
Day 7: Morning tour to see Monticello. Afternoon at leisure.
Day 8: Depart Charlottesville via Skyline Drive/Luray Caverns. Check in Washington Dulles airport
Day 9: Arrive London

For a copy of the brochure please return the coupon below to: TravelPlanners, FREEPOST MB1949, Orpington, Kent, BR5 3BR or Tel: 0990 280083 (please quote tour name)

Please send me further information on the Travelplanners Fall Foliage offer:

Mr/Mrs/Miss: .... Initial:.......... Surname:..........
Address:..........
....
.... Postcode:..........

Tour Code: GFF TRAVELPLANNERS A trading name of USAirtours Holdings Ltd. ABTA V8082 4106

Slovenia and **Croatia:** The countries of the former Yugoslavia are battling to regain their tourist industry

Ruritania lives again

WORLD PICTURES

In the capital, Ljubljana, an outdoor market sells everything from vegetables and fruit to weird herbs for witch-like cures

We swam in the clear Adriatic by a tiny medieval town on a headland along Slovenia's short but beautiful coast, the towers of Trieste to one side, the Croatian hills to the other. Two hours' driving later and we were in Ljubljana, a central European capital, full of music, Baroque and street cafés below an ancient castle. We ate suckling pig and frittered frogs in a pretty courtyard, where students recited poetry and performed folk dancing.

Another hour's drive and we were in a farm guesthouse below the Alps near the Austrian border. The farmer's wife laughed a lot, greeted us with home-made plum brandy and gave us a room with a view of wild peaks and serene Lake Blěd. We awoke next day to the sound of cowbells.

Small but diverse, Slovenia is only two hours by car from Salzburg or Venice. This former Marxist Ruritania of two million people, having won its ten-day "war of liberation" in 1991 against Belgrade's Serb-led army, is today independent for the first time in 800 years of alien rule, mainly Hapsburg, then Titoist. It is the most advanced of all former communist nations, and in the front rank to join the EU.

It is in a charmed phase of transition, not yet too tarted-up by capitalist gloss, but showing few outward signs of its socialist past, save for some dreary Soviet-style buildings and the dullness of some hotels still "publicly owned". Other places to stay, however, are delightful, notably the farm houses.

Slovenes are bursting with culture; book-buying is at Europe's highest level and "everyone here writes poetry, it's our national disease", I was told. Under foreign domination, Slovenes always clung to their own language and culture to preserve their national identity; and their national hero is a poet, Franz Prešeren.

The coast has an Italian legacy. Here Venice in its prime built ramparted seaports: Piran, the prettiest, is like a less-spoilt St Tropez — a tiny, red-roofed city secluded on a cape, with intimate alleys, a marble-paved piazza, coloured Venetian houses, dinghies in the harbour, like the setting for an operetta. At the seafront restaurants, popular with the Ljubljana smart set, we enjoyed the local fish and wines (dry white Malvazija, purplish Teran).

Nearby is the large, modern resort of Portorož, whose thermal centre offers mud cures. From here it is a short drive into Croatia — much poorer and still war-shocked — past the Customs posts and armed guards of the new frontier that did not exist until 1991. Slovene scorn for the rest of former Yugoslavia can be smug: "We have nothing to do with that Balkan lot down south," is a remark I heard often.

Across most of the country the Austrian legacy is visible in the Baroque towns, onion-domed churches and spa resorts. There are Slovene curiosities, too — ornately painted beehives and haystacks with wooden roofs amid lush, pastoral scenery.

At Lipica stud farm you can watch a display of the handsome, white Lippizaner horses once bred for the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. At Kobarid is a striking new museum of the 1917 mountain battle where Hemingway drove an ambulance before saying farewell to arms. In a gigantic cave near Postojna, we found a poetry festival in full swing.

At Blěd, the beauty of the little lake is not much spoilt by the big ugly hotels at one end. You can walk around it in 70 minutes; or row out to the toy-like white church on a tiny island; or visit the imposing hilltop castle, where we came across a Bach cello concert.

The Hapsburg and Yugoslav royals, and then Tito, all adored Blěd. The Café Belvedere, above the lake, was built by King Alexander then used as a tearoom by Tito, who has left enormous frescoes of sturdy workers and farm girls creating a socialist Utopia. Here, a mini-skirted waitress served us caviar sandwiches.

At Tito's nearby Villa Blěd, now a luxury hotel, you can sleep in his suite. The furnishings are drab and heavy. I preferred the elegant Lakeside Hotel at Toplice, where Agatha Christie once stayed.

Ljubljana has few Tito relics but some splendid ancient buildings in the Old Town by the river below the castle. Here are narrow streets with Bohemian bars and bistros: and the curious, ornate Triple Bridge, designed in the 1920s by the Slovene architect Jože Plečnik. In an outdoor market, women were selling weird herbs for witch-like cures alongside vegetables.

Much of Ljubljana is still shabby, yet full of a lively, quirky originality, youthful and cosmopolitan. We found The Dubliners folk group playing their sixth visit, to eager audiences. Indeed, Slovenes have much in common with the Irish — songful, boozy and gregarious; witty talkers with a strain of melancholy; passionate if touchy patriots, after a long occupation by a larger neighbour.

At village inns or city taverns, the cooking is appetising, if rough-and-ready, with thick soups, pork, sausages, mushrooms, and strüdels. Many dishes are Austrian in style, others Balkan.

After its 1991 "war", Slovenia briefly lost its tourist trade, but now the Austrians, Germans and Italians have returned in hordes. Many Britons still seem wary of visiting the former Yugoslavian countries; school exchanges with Slovenia have been slow to resume, and few car insurance firms will provide cover (you do best to buy this at the border posts).

Happily, there are signs of a change for 1997. Some of the bigger tour operators, such as Thomson, are back in business here, while the smaller Slovenia Pursuits is developing its farm holidays.

Now you can ski in the Alps, take a spa cure or an Adriatic beach holiday, visit churches with medieval frescoes, dine on venison in a castle courtyard or attend any of the many music festivals.

Something for everyone.

JOHN ARDAGH

Pour another glass of mistletoe liqueur

FACT FILE

■ Thomson (0990 502 560) offers seven-night packages to Porec from £265 half-board, depending on the time of year.

■ Reading: *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, by Rebecca West (Canongate Books, £9.99). *Companion Guide to Yugoslavia*, (Boydell & Brewer, £16.95).

To the east of Trieste, the Istrian peninsula juts into the northeastern Adriatic. Over the centuries various empires — Roman, Byzantine, Venetian, Austro-Hungarian — have swept across it, establishing ports and resorts. Since 1990 Istria has been part of Croatia and before that, of course, Yugoslavia. Although the recent bloodshed happened elsewhere, the foreign tourists who once flocked there now hardly come at all.

Their absence and an unusually wet summer last year meant that when I arrived in mid-September in Porec, a town on the western shore, my fellow visitors were mainly day-trippers from other parts of Croatia. The lack of international interest emphasised the town's quiet charm. It looked busy enough: the cafés and ice-cream parlours were all full, the most expensive shops were selling filigree jewellery and a woman was doing a brisk trade in lavender.

In the early morning a greenish light hung over the marina, where yachts bobbed in the clear water. A woody headland extends beyond the town itself, popular with campers and nudists; I was told that, through the midst of the troubles, a family of British nudists spent two Garden of Eden-style years on the headland. A few Victorian hotels line the front but most date from the tourist boom of the 1970s. One has been requisitioned as a hostel for refugees from Vukovar, who apparently loathe the sea and cannot wait to go home.

Behind the refugees' hotel are the remains of a temple built by the Romans, whose original town plan survives: the main street is still the Decumanus and the town square, Marafor Trg, is the forum. The Romans called the place Parentium. There were two temples, one dedicated to Neptune, the other to Mars.

Both were eclipsed in Byzantine times by the basilica, endowed by a wealthy citizen called Euphrasius in honour of St Maurice. Much of the current basilica dates from the 6th century, although the altar incorporates carvings taken from the Neptune temple, and there are some 4th-century floor mosaics.

The bell-tower was added by the Venetians, who came originally for the materials (wood, stone and marble) to build their own city, then stayed, planting olive groves and vineyards in the region. Parenzo, their name for the town, is still used. Italian is widely spoken all along the western coast: most of the towns are signposted with both Croat and Italian names. Venice was never more than a day's voyage away — nowadays just a few hours by hydrofoil — and the Guild of Venetian Pilots was based in Porec, the *pedotti* meeting the great galleasses out in the Adriatic and guiding them skilfully over to the lagoon. Several palazzos grace the Decumanus, as well as humbler 15th-century dwellings.

The day we crossed the peninsula was blustery, to say the least. Our first stop, just a few miles inland from Porec, was the Baredine cavern with an unpromising entrance — slippery iron steps down a hole in a field of soggy pumpkins. But what we found down there was Wonderland: five glittering chambers of stalactites and stalagmites, hanging curtains that chimed when tapped and gigantic translucent crystals. One stalagmite looked exactly like the Tower of Pisa, another like the Virgin Mary.

We were shown an albino salamander from a dark river far beneath the cave, now living on invisible insects alone in a shallow pool. Without eyes, it was a solemn, elegant creature, looking as if it was sculpted from a candle.

As we went further inland, the landscape took on a rugged Celtic character: valleys, drizzle, shades of green, rocky outcrops, mossy lanes, gnarled trees, lichen, ivy and dry-stone walls and small circular barns called *kazuns*, constructed in the same way as the walls, the stones so precisely piled that their interiors are tight against the rain.

The hill village of Hum, on the western rim of Mount Ucka, claims to be the smallest town in the world. In the Middle Ages it was a place of sanctuary for the local population. Whenever it was stormed or destroyed, Hum was rebuilt from the rubble, and only the early 19th-century parish church has changed its original outlines. Now most of Hum's inhabitants are artists and craftsmen; they must lead an agreeable life.

Our guide pointed out inscriptions and graffiti in Glagolitic script, an alphabet invented by two missionary saints, Cyril and Methodius, in the 9th century. Eventually the Glagolitic alphabet was modified into the much more widespread Cyrillic script, but the original form continued to be used in central Istria for nearly a thousand years.

We had a splendid lunch: home-made bread, *prsut* (prosciutto), ewe's milk cheese, olives, a bean soup called *bobici*, coarse-textured sausages and sauerkraut, and a young red wine. With our coffee we were offered a local spirit called *biska*, made from mistletoe, but (convinced that mistletoe is poisonous) we declined.

I was given a cassette of folk songs and dance tunes. Istria has a startling musical tradition, which is based on a scale found nowhere else in the world, performed on strange instruments such as *rozenicas*, primitive oboes always played in pairs, one large and one small. There is also the *surla* (two pipes played with a single mouthpiece, allowing two quite different sounds to be produced at once) and a local bagpipe called the *diple*. If the instruments sound jarring to our ears, the "harmony" singing is so discordant it sounds like a hoax. But perhaps after a few drams of *biska* . . .

As we left Hum, the weather grew worse. We pressed on through driving rain to the eastern shore — hardly the best conditions to arrive in Opatija, the *belle epoque* resort on the Gulf of Kvarner, the Adriatic Riviera. As Porec is influenced by Rome and Venice, so Opatija looks decidedly Central European with its ornate stucco villas, botanical gardens and cafés serving Viennese pastries.

Its gradual development began in the 1840s, when the Villa Angiolina was built by an Austrian timber merchant. By the beginning of this century Opatija was fashionable enough to attract royal visitors. Isadora Duncan stayed at the Grand Hotel which was then the most opulent in town.

The rain lashed down all day and all night; everyone assured me it was most untypical. I sat on various sheltered terraces, writing postcards urging friends to visit Istria before the crowds return, if not for the coastal resorts then for the warm eccentricity of the heartland. This summer the weather is bound to improve.

JOE ROBERTS

● *The author was a guest of Thomson Holidays.*

WORLD PICTURES

Opatija was once a favourite resort for royal visitors

For those contemplating a tour of Middle Europe the usual option is a land based coach tour offering overnight stops and long journeys. If the thought of a different hotel every night and all that re-packing is unattractive, then you might like to consider our voyage along the Elbe and Vltava Rivers.

PASSAGE TO PRAGUE

A SEVEN NIGHT RIVER VOYAGE FROM POTSDAM TO PRAGUE ABOARD THE MS KONIGSTEIN

Departures 7 June, 14 June 1997*

During the course of our seven night river journey we will sail from the royal city of Potsdam on the outskirts of Berlin through the enchanting countryside of Saxony and Bohemia to Prague. Our vessel the MS Konigstein is the only vessel currently able to navigate this route which allows us to sail into the heart of Prague.

THE MS KONIGSTEIN

Built in 1992 and specifically designed for this route, the Konigstein is a first class river vessel accommodating up to 62 passengers. All cabins on both decks have a large picture window, are well designed, comfortably furnished and have a private shower and toilet. The public areas are well furnished, bright and welcoming offering a single sitting dining room, lounge and bar area. The top of the vessel is a large sun and observation deck with suitable furniture.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 Fly London to Berlin with British Airways. Drive to Potsdam and embark Konigstein. Sail along Elbe-Havel Canal.
Day 2 Visit Tangermunde and overnight Magdeburg.
Day 3 Morning on the river. Afternoon visit to Wittenberg.
Day 4 Visit Torgau
Day 5 Cruise to Meissen and Dresden and moor overnight.
Day 6 Cruise through the Elbsandstein Mountains to Konigstein.
Day 7 Navigate the Vltava River to Prague for overnight mooring
Day 8 Prague, disembark after breakfast. Afternoon flight to London with British Airways.

PRICES PER PERSON
in Twin bedded cabin

Havel Deck	Two beds	£1395
Moldau Deck	Two beds	£1495
Single (Havel Deck)		£1860

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 7 nights aboard the Konigstein on full board, transfers, all shore excursions, UK departure tax.
Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes, tips to ship's crew.
*Cruise operates in reverse order from Prague to Potsdam.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
Please telephone 0171-409 0376
(7 days a week during office hours)

MUSICAL PASSAGE TO PRAGUE
11-18 October 1997
Join broadcaster Fritz Spiegl and renowned soprano Ann Mackay on a musical journey from Potsdam to Prague.
Full details available on request.

NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED
11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0834
24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424
ATOL 3108 ABTA V321X

SLOVENIA FACT FILE

■ Farmhouse specialists Slovenia Pursuits (01763 852646) offers a week's B&B for £356 per person, based on four sharing, including flights. Transfers to and from the airport costs £24 each. Other tour operators include Thomson (0990 502560), Crystal (0181-399 5144), Inghams (0181-780 4400) and Ramblers' Holidays (01707 331133).

■ Adria Airways (0171-437 0143) flies daily from Heathrow to Ljubljana from £233 return. There will also be a Tuesday flight from Manchester from June 17 at £298.

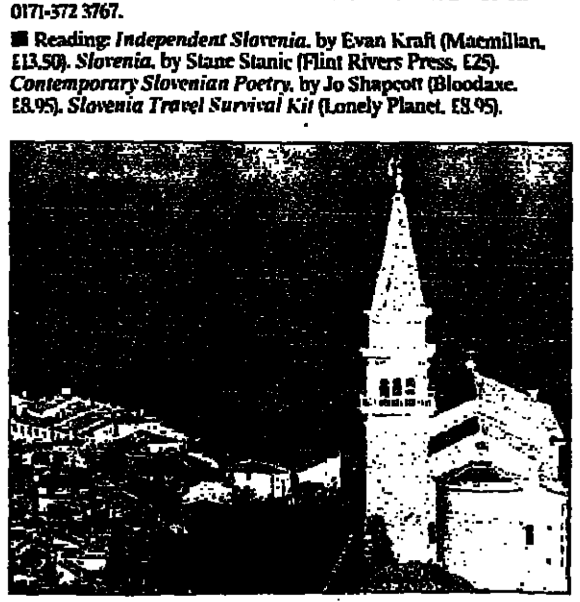
■ Recommended hotels in Slovenia include: Austrotel, Ljubljana (00 386 61 132 61 33), B&B £100 a double room. Hotel Tartini, Piran (00 386 66 74 62 22), B&B double, £50. Grand Hotel Toplice, Blěd (00 386 64 74 18 41), B&B double, £90.

■ The exchange rate is at present £1 = 240 tolars.

■ Driving: if taking your car into Slovenia, buy third-party insurance at the border, roughly £30 a week. Car hire with Hertz (0990 996699) from Ljubljana airport costs £67 for three days over a weekend, £133 for a week, to include unlimited mileage, collision damage waiver, theft protection and taxes.

■ For further information, call the Slovene Tourist Board on 0171-372 3767.

■ Reading: *Independent Slovenia*, by Evan Kraft (Macmillan, £13.50). *Slovenia*, by Stane Stanic (Flint Rivers Press, £25). *Contemporary Slovenian Poetry*, by Jo Shapcott (Bloodaxe, £8.95). *Slovenia Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £8.95).



St George's church at Piran, a less-spoilt St Tropez

Find your Oasis.
Book now. Relax later.

The first Oasis Forest Holiday Village opens on the edge of the Lake District National Park on 2nd May. It's packed with indoor and outdoor activities, all set in a stunning forest environment, from £281 for a three-night weekend break for a family of four this June. But it's booking fast. So if you don't want to miss your Oasis, see your travel agent or call us now.

For bookings:
0990 086 000
For a brochure:
0990 086 086
brochures@oasisvillages.com.mail.compuserve.com

Oasis
Forest Holiday Villages

هكذا من الأصل

Spring breaks: The literary landscape of Marcel Proust; plus the artistic life and soul of the Spanish border

A novel type of pilgrim

CAP-VIOLLET

Illiers-Combray, where Proust, left, spent summer holidays in his great aunt's house and drew inspiration for the fictional town of Combray portrayed in his novel

Few novelists enjoy as much of a cult following as Marcel Proust (1871-1922). Reading the seven volumes of Proust's magnum opus, *Remembrance of Things Past*, is frequently described as an eye-opening, even life-changing experience. For anyone who has fallen seriously under Proust's spell, there may be no finer way to spend a holiday than to undertake a Proustian pilgrimage, visiting a number of sites in northern France connected with the great moustachioed writer.

What would such a pilgrimage involve? First and foremost, a visit to Illiers-Combray, a sleepy town 25 kilometres southwest of the cathedral town of Chartres. For centuries, the place was simply known as Illiers, but in 1971, it decided to rename itself to signal its connection to its most famous son, or rather visitor, for it was here that Marcel Proust spent his summer holidays in his great aunt's house and here that he drew inspiration for the fictional town of Combray, lovingly described in the first volume of his novel.

There is something eerie about driving into a place which has surrendered its claim to independent reality in favour of a role fashioned for it by a novelist who spent a few summers there as a boy in the late 19th century. But Illiers-Combray relishes the idea. Every bakery advertises *'la petite madeleine de Marcel Proust'*, and groups of pilgrims are to be seen ambling down the town's quaint cobbled streets, carrying bags of madeleines and heading for Proust's aunt's house, now converted into the Musée Marcel Proust.

It has all the kitsch touches usually found in writer's museums — pens which the author supposedly wrote with, desks where he supposedly sat, beds he supposedly slept in. Characters in the novel are referred to as if they were real, rather than merely modelled on real people. Visitors are solemnly shown "the bed in which Aunt Seonie slept" and "the kitchen where Françoise cooked her asparagus". Still, those who have been impressed by the opening pages of Proust's novel cannot not fail to be moved by the sight of the small garden in which the author's fictionalised mother once sat with Charles Swann before going upstairs to give her son the legendary good night kiss.

In the countryside around Illiers-Combray, Marcel Proust trails have been set up so that tourists can follow on foot the very country walks the author takes his readers along on the page. You can watch the Loire flow languidly past, and recall its fictionalised version, Proust's Vivonne river. Of course, there's nothing spectacular about this stretch of countryside or indeed about this little town. It's typical of many in the flat plain west of Paris, but the particular charm of a visit to Illiers-Combray lies in a chance to see with one's own eyes things one has already seen described by a genius.

Proust developed chronic asthma in adolescence and never returned to Illiers-Combray. He was more or less confined to Paris and to a second-floor apartment at 102 Boulevard Haussmann. Proust had a problem with other people's noises, which explains why he took the eccentric step of lining his bedroom with cork tiles. It was an excellent idea, for when one visits the room today it is a haven of peace in a noisy part of town. Proust's flat is owned by a bank, which has taken the enlightened step of opening up his bedroom to literary tourists. Proust more or less lived in his bedroom, with the curtains drawn, working at night and sleeping in the day (it was quieter that way).

Today the room is light, airy and empty apart from a few chairs, for Proust's original furniture has all been moved to another of his bedrooms. Confusingly, there are two Proust bedrooms in Paris: one on the Boulevard Haussmann, the other, a recreation of this very same room, complete with original furniture, in the Musée Carnavalet. If only the two institutions could come to some agreement, the Proustian pilgrim would be saved a journey, for Proust's furniture is notably ugly (unsurprising when he once wrote to friends: "There is nothing I care less about than tables, chairs and carpets").

Those seeking something a little more tastefully Proustian should head for the Hotel Ritz in the Place Vendome. Proust was a frequent visitor to this gilded palace, which gave him a chance to indulge his snobbish side, as it was full of duchesses and counts (later mercilessly mocked in his novel). He particularly liked the food at the Ritz, especially the roast chicken and green beans. He would give intimate dinner parties in a small room on the first floor of the hotel (the dining room was too crowded and too noisy).

Today, the room has been turned, perhaps inevitably, into the "suite Marcel Proust". There's a portrait of him on the wall, a madeleine comes with your breakfast tray, and, for the bookish, there is a copy of *Remembrance of Things Past* in a glass cabinet. To be truly Proustian, you might order a plate of roast chicken and green beans — delicious, but criminally priced — Fr280 (£31) for the *volaille rotie*, Fr120 (£13) for haricots verts. Then again, as Proust wisely noted: "There are people who are only convinced that they have enjoyed themselves if they have first been led to spend a lot of money." In which case, the Ritz couldn't be more fun.

Another luxurious location with a Proust connection is the Normandy seaside resort of Cabourg — in Proust's day, the playground of the rich and famous, but now somewhat run down, in a charming Brightonish sort of way. There is a huge sandy beach, a long promenade and a succession of little restaurants tempting you with succulent moules-frites and crêpes.

Dominating the town is an imposing stuccoed pile, the Grand Hotel, where Proust stayed during the summers he spent in Cabourg from 1907 to 1914. He went to Normandy hoping the sea air would do his asthma some good. It didn't, but Cabourg at least inspired him to create the fabulous fictional resort of Balbec in volume two of his long novel.

Naturally the Grand Hotel has a "Proust suite" — an ordinary room but 50 per cent more expensive than any other, thanks to the literary heritage. It's not quite the Ritz, but it's luxurious enough, with a stunning view across the bay and a large sunken bath. Hints of Proust are everywhere in Cabourg: there's a promenade Marcel Proust, the Grand Hotel has a restaurant called Le Balbec, the bar in the casino is called Du côté de chez Swann and there's even a café called the Albertine.

Proustians would be well advised to take a car beyond Cabourg into the surrounding Normandy countryside, dotted — as in Dives, Glanville, Bricqueville and Englesqueville — with quaint medieval churches. Proust had a passion for these, and would visit them at night, asking his chauffeur to light up the archways and the gargoyles with the car headlamps.

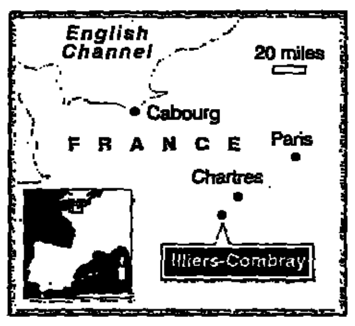
Despite his many ailments and reclusive tendencies, there was nothing Marcel Proust loved to do more than go on holiday. He provides us with the perfect excuse to head off on one — though we should perhaps heed his warning: "The finest holidays are those we picture to ourselves in our minds before we have left home."

ALAIN DE BOTTON

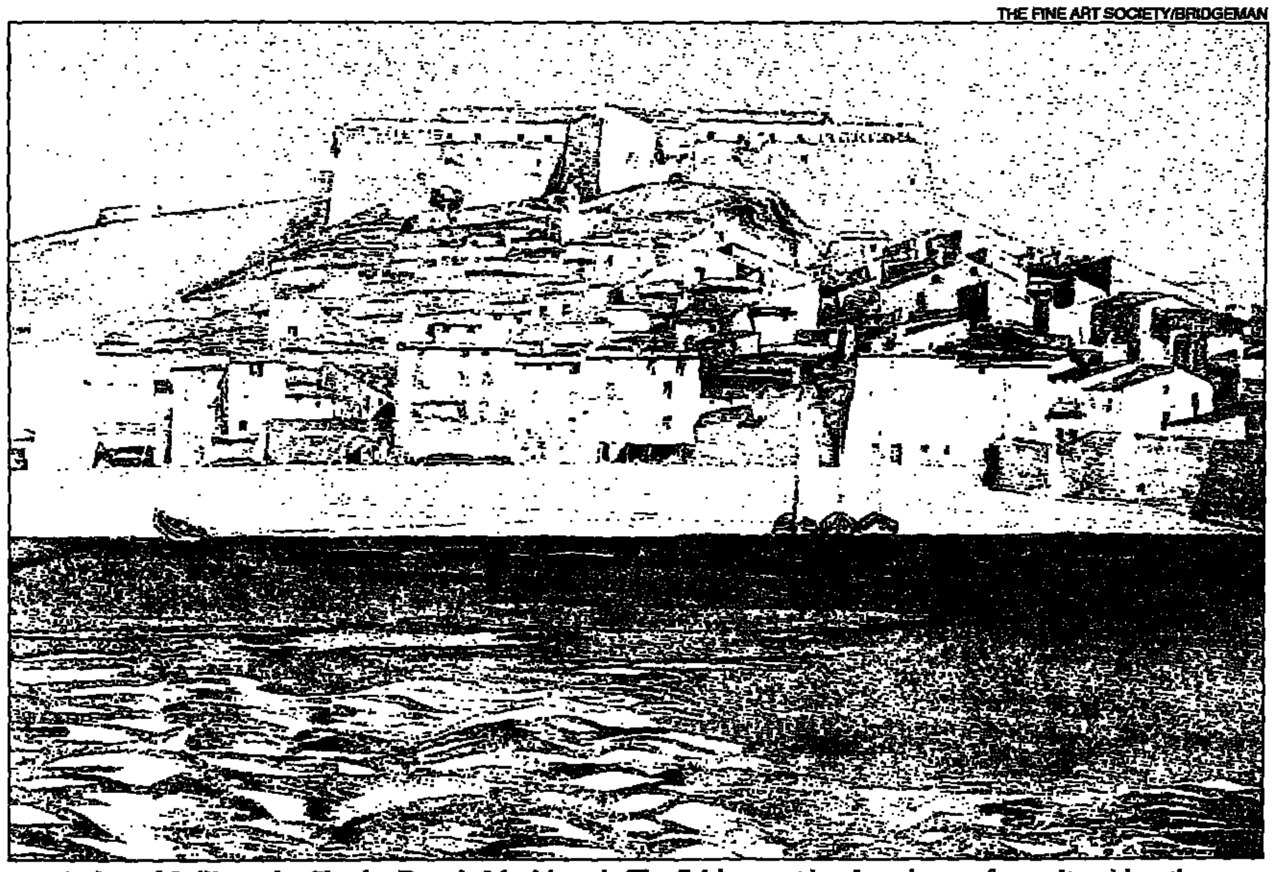
● *The author was assisted by the French Tourist Office. He is the author of* How Proust Can Change Your Life, *published by Picador, £12.99*

FACT FILE

- The author flew Brit Air (0181-742-6600) from Gatwick to Le Havre, return flights from £89.
- Musée Marcel Proust, 4 Rue du Docteur Proust, 28120 Illiers-Combray, Eure-et-Loir (16) 23 72 43 097. Visits daily, except Monday. Entrance Fr25 (£2.70).
- Chambre Marcel Proust, Banque SNVB, 102 Boulevard Haussmann, 75009 Paris.
- Musée Carnavalet, 23 Rue de Sevigne, 75003 Paris. Open every day except Monday.
- Hotel Ritz, 15 Place Vendome, 75001 Paris (43 16 30 30). Proust suite: Fr6,900 (£770) low season, Fr8,700 (£970) high season.
- Grand Hotel, Promenade Marcel Proust, Cabourg (02 31 91 01 79, fax 02 31 24 03 20). Proust suite: Fr1,200 low season, Fr1,300 high season.
- Hertz cars can be rented in eight Normandy towns. Reservations can be made in the UK by phoning 0990 906090. A week's car hire from Deauville in May costs from about £144.
- Reading: *Remembrance of Things Past*, by Marcel Proust (Penguin, three volumes, £12, £12.50, £13). *Companion Guide to Normandy*, by Nesta Roberts (Boydell & Brewer, £14.95). *Normandy and Brittany* (Rough Guide, 8.99).



Knowing art from anchovies



THE FINE ART SOCIETY/BRIDGEMAN

A view of Collioure by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The fishing port has long been a favourite with artists

We headed for Catalan country in search of spring. Picking up a car from Toulouse airport, we drove on to where the Pyrenees tumble into the Mediterranean. Known to sailors as the armpit of the Med, the locals understandably prefer the name of Côte Vermouille, presumably referring to the reddish brown earth.

Once a small fishing port, Collioure has drawn artists to its narrow streets since the days of Matisse and Derain. Picasso passed through. Dufy doodled and even Charles Rennie Mackintosh stayed long enough to take off his coat.

Today, the art is reassuring rather than radical, and fishing has to compete with fashion. But, despite an appetite for the tourist franc, Collioure has retained a great deal of its inherent beauty. Salmon-pink houses under orange-brown tiles crowd around the water's edge. St Vincent's church, grafted on to the lighthouse in the 17th century, guards the north wall of the harbour and the Château Royal, founded by the Templars in the 12th century, dominates the bay.

Climbing steeply back from the harbour, the houses begin to thin out among delicately terraced fields of vines until the hills eventually become too steep to cultivate and serve simply as a spectacular backdrop to the town.

Our hotel, Les Templiers, has long been a focus for the town's artistic life. René Pous, the founder, had clearly had a soft spot for Matisse and his cohorts and could always be persuaded to part with a plate of anchovies and a bottle of red wine in exchange for a painting. As a result, the walls are filled with what one would term "works of art". Good business if you are feeding a hungry Matisse but in some cases René got a bad deal.

Collioure is only a few miles from the Spanish border. Unlike the British, who have strong ideas about national boundaries, the Catalans see them merely as lines on a map — usually someone else's.

We crossed the border into Spain and headed for Gerona. This city, like most of Catalonia, has often been fought over and occupied and its architecture is borrowed from dozens of different styles. Where else, apart from Israel, would you find Arab baths in the Jewish quarter?

From the outside Gerona's cathedral is not particularly impressive, but don't be put off. It was founded in the 11th century, though a Roman temple and a mosque previously occupied the site, and much of the present building dates from the 15th century. Inside, the impression is of size — its Gothic nave is the widest of its kind in the world, and you cannot help wondering how the roof stays up.

The greatest treasures, however, are to be found in the museum and cloisters. Religious or not, there is something awe-inspiring about the *Beatus*, an account of the Apocalypse written more than 1,000 years ago by Emeterius, and the Romanesque *Tapestry of the Creation*, woven in the 11th and 12th centuries and still largely intact.

In a long room above the cloisters is a collection of bishops' vestments dating back to the 13th century. The vestments are displayed on dummies inside glass cabinets. Each one reflects off the windows of surrounding cabinets, thus multiplying the number of "bishops". I felt as if I had stumbled into an episcopal cocktail party.

On the way back from Gerona, we called into the Dali museum in Figueres, the artist's final joke on the world. Even Catalans admit there is no other reason for visiting the town and I assume that the enormous golden-yellow eggs on the roof reflect the artist's status in the town as the fabled goose.

Back in France, we drove inland along the River Tech, one of several Catalan rivers that flow from the Pyrenees on to the Roussillon plain. We touched Céret, famed for its cherry harvest but somewhat seedy, and Amélie-les-Bains, a spa town that one guidebook refers to as a year-round old people's home. After a couple of hours we came to Prats-de-Mollo, a great base for a walking holiday that gained its 15 minutes of fame when the inhabitants murdered Louis XIV's taxmen. A roadside sign at the Hôtel des Touristes proclaimed: "We attempt to correctly speak English", and the maitresse d', a formidable Catalan lady, did indeed engage us in conversation.

She congratulated us on driving so far up the valley and berated the folk of Perpignan for never getting past Amélie. She then explained how we might take the track up through the pass and on towards Mont Canigou, a mountain that occupies a special place in the Catalan soul.

The River Aude also spills out of the Pyrenees and the valley provides a spectacular drive. In the Défilé de Pierre-Lys, a gorge south of Quillan, the road passes under huge engineered overhangs of rock like half-tunnels.

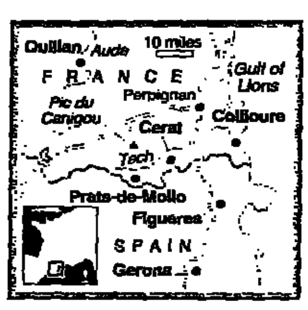
The fast-flowing Aude provides Quillan with its main attraction, but after the gorge we did manage to squeeze in a sustaining bowl of cassoulet and a pitcher of red, just to calm the nerves.

On Sunday, the day we left, Collioure held a market. We could not resist buying some enormous olives, plus a few bottles of local wine and an extremely large jar of the anchovies the town specialises in. The olives lasted us a couple of days, the wine lingered for a couple of weeks. And the anchovies? Well, if anyone has a recipe, other than pizza or baked peppers, please let me know.

GERRY TAYLOR

● *The author was a guest of Inntravel.*

FACT FILE



- Air France (0181-742 6600) has daily flights from Heathrow to Toulouse from £206.
- Budget (0541 565656) has car hire from Toulouse from £123 for a week.
- Inntravel (01653 628811) offers a three-night fly-drive to Collioure, via Toulouse, from £314. The price includes three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at Les Templiers, Air France flights and three days' car hire. Extra nights, with car hire, from £57.
- Travelscene (0181-427 4445) has seven-night fly-drive holidays to Toulouse from £563, including car hire, flights and hotels.
- Reading: *Languedoc Roussillon*, by Andrew Sanger (A&C Black, £12.99). *An Englishman in the Midi*, by John P. Harris (BBC, £4.99).

FRANCE
— LIVE LIKE A —
LORD
IN YOUR OWN
PRIVATE CHATEAU,
VILLA OR DOMAINE
From only £32 per person
- FREE OVERNIGHT HOTELS EN-ROUTE
- OVER 500 VILLAS AND CHATEAUX WITH POOLS TO CHOOSE FROM
- CHANNEL CROSSINGS £69 PER CAR AND PASSENGERS RETURN
- CHILDREN'S CLUBS AND NANNY SERVICE
- GOLFING BREAKS

for our free 140 page brochure call
01235 824324
or see your local ABTA travel agent
Crystal HOLIDAYS

Holyman Sally's new Fast Ferries will speed you from Ramsgate to Belgium in only 100 minutes!

Ramsgate is a highly convenient embarkation point, within easy reach of London and the M25. The port is owned by Sally and so you will enjoy the personal service of our staff.

Ostend is the natural gateway to Europe, and it has never been simpler to get there.

Call 0345 16 00 00 or see your local travel agent.

Holyman Sally Ferries
We sail to please

The Bahamas: One is a swimming pool, the other a pool full of sharks – make sure you know which

IMAGE BANK

The Atlantis is no ordinary hotel. Paths from bar to bar pass through Perspex tunnels surrounded by sea-turtles and barracuda. The Bahamas also offers guests the opportunity to swim with dolphins

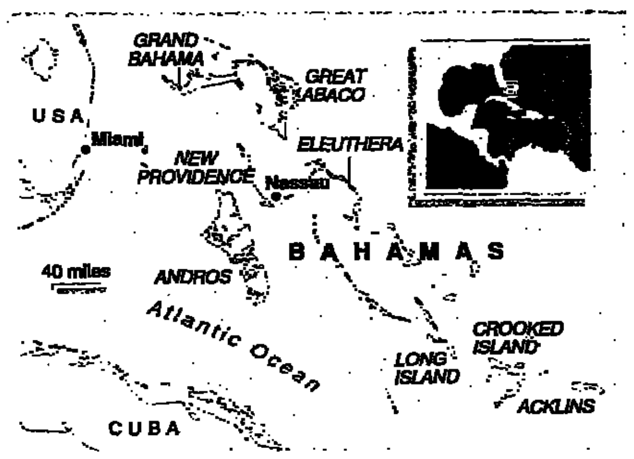
In at the deep end ... carefully

This is a holiday story about sea creatures. When we awoke after a transatlantic flight in a modern Bahamian hotel, our nine-year-old son was delighted to find long grey shapes basking in the pool outside his bedroom door. I assured him that they were plastic, that the large, black round thing, floating like a lorry's flat tyre, was a piece of Miami-style marine decoration, the sort of feature that one might expect in a waterfront casino-hotel where cruise ships call in.

He replied with greater assurance than mine. These sharks and stingrays were real, he said, pointing out clear movement among some of them. We decided that it would be wise, especially in any morning blur or after a pair of pina coladas, to take a careful check that the swimming pool was not also a sea aquarium. And so we did.

The Atlantis is no ordinary hotel. To walk from bar to bar is to pass through Perspex tunnels surrounded by sea-turtles and sea bass. What does the barracuda feed on, I asked one of the keepers. At 200lb, pretty much anything it wants, he replied, waving airily at clouds of blue and yellow tropical fish, enough to supply pet shops from Nassau to San Diego.

I had read a little Hemingway on the plane journey to acclimatise myself to what he described as these "Islands in the Stream". So at least I recognised some of the creatures that the great fish-killer had made famous. I also flicked through two other books of local colour, the first an account of grisly mobster murder during the wartime governorship of the Duke of Windsor, the second a thin Sixties thriller about sex, sand, construction and casinos. This novel, it soon became clear, was set in the early days of Paradise Island where our hotel was now standing.



There were dozens of easily recognisable details. If anyone were planning to settle in the Bahamas it would be well worth reading Robert Wilder's *An Affair of Honour* (even if it is available only in libraries).

The sharks there are white-faced and grey-suited. The dangers below the sea are a laboriously extended metaphor for the perils of black demagogues, bent bankers and small-time criminals in a small but expanding pond.

A navigator-hero has to find his way through identical-looking channels; on one side there is safety; beneath the other lie the wrecking rocks which for centuries have brought Bahamians their booty. Businessmen, he suggests, should beware.

Tourists, it appears, need to be less wary. The Bahamas today is making successful efforts to welcome its visitors. Outside Nassau's main streets, crime is low. A more useful book would have been a manual of the marine life, a guide to non-human sharks. As a gambling haven, Atlantis has Las Vegas games and Las Vegas rules: at least if you were in the Nevada desert you could hope to hear Engelbert Humperdinck at the same time. But as an aquarium hotel, Atlantis is a real rarity — there can be few places in the world where fish and guests share so much space and where barracuda and pina colada so pleasurably meet. Take a short boat ride and you can even break through the Perspex barriers. The dolphin-swimming experience used to be available in many American resorts until the sea-creature protection leagues decided that it was a bad experience for the dolphins. But the Bahamas has long prided itself on relaxation.

WORLD PICTURES

Unwinding at the Bluff House Club where the emphasis is on relaxation

Out on the tiny island bays — the sort that the wreckers used for trapping Spanish cargoes, the bootleggers used for taking prohibition bourbon to New York and where the drug-runners ran until the government was paid enough by Washington to run them out — you can swim with dolphins. One moment you are flat in the water, the next moment your feet are being pushed by double-dolphin power and your head is thrust high above the sea-surface like the angel's face on a galleon's prow.

Our second stop, on a one-week half-term break, was on the outer islands known as the Abacos. The Bluff House Club is a group of cottages around a meeting place and restaurant. There is a party almost every night, an atmosphere as far as possible from that of a casino — and the sharks and rays here have no keeper. This is the formerly barren bit of the Bahamas where Americans loyal to George III shipped up after losing the War of Independence.

New Plymouth, a golf-buggy ride from Bluff House, is still a place of clapboard houses and colonial memorabilia. Despite a hundred hurricanes it still looks like a piece of New England — and hence a piece of old England too.

Lincoln, the hotel's local hero, takes us fishing for half a day. At first our attempts at Hemingway-emulation are weaker than we could imagine. One hour produced a single miserable trigger fish, a stubby cobalt and orange creature that Atlantis would have used for shark food. But then came a half-dozen groupers and a harpoon full of lobsters for broiling on the beach.

During Lincoln's cooking show, we went swimming beside the pines of Munjaq bay. This was surely the paradise of which so many brochures boast.

Then there came the same grey shapes, the same round black rubbery beasts of the sea. Lincoln said they were safe. We believed him. Sand sharks are quite friendly when you get to know them and stingrays eat bait-fish from between your toes.

PETER STOTHARD

● *The author was a guest of the Bahamas Tourist Office.*

BAHAMAS FACT FILE

■ *Several tour operators feature the islands.* Kuoni (01306 742222) has seven nights at the Atlantis from £863, room-only, from September-December. Thomson Holidays (0990 502555) starts charter flights to the Bahamas from Gatwick and Manchester in May until October 25. Prices for a two-week holiday, room-only, start at £795.

■ The Bahamas Reservation Service (0171-434 9915) will book hotels. Seven nights at the Atlantis on Paradise Island starts from £696, room-only, *based on two sharing. Prices for seven nights at Bluff House start at* £630. The Atlantis is also represented in the UK by Sun International (01491 411222). Summer room rates, excluding local taxes, start at $145 (£85).

■ American Airlines (0181-572 5555) flies daily to Nassau via Miami. Prices start at £440 in low season and £512 high season.

■ British Airways (0345 222111) flies on Tuesdays and Fridays direct to Nassau. Tickets booked 21 days in advance cost £691 including tax.

■ For further information: The Bahamas Tourist Office (01483 448900).

■ Reading: *The Story of the Bahamas*, by Paul Albury (Macmillan, £5.95). *Islands in the Stream*, by Ernest Hemingway (Flamingo, £5.99). *Insight Guide, Bahamas* (£12.99).

Tickled pink by showbiz

I had only been walking for an hour, in the zigzag way that tourists and houseflies do, when I encountered for the third time a group of men whizzing around on their buggy. Familiarity did not dampen their etiquette — they waved hello and smiled at my floral hat flapping in the breeze.

You get to know your neighbours quickly on Harbour Island, one of the more developed islands in the Bahamas. Measuring barely three miles by one mile, and washed by the Atlantic, it is a bit like a Bahamian version of Lundy. On both islands, tourists provide the major source of income and are regarded as much a part of the community as the island-dwellers.

Mercifully, there are differences. Here, the Atlantic waters are warm and tempting, and the roads are lined with houses painted in rainbow colours. There are also more than 2,000 inhabitants to Lundy's 20-odd, so visitors lured by the promise of a quiet, tropical retreat can also enjoy the vibrance which sweeps the island after dark.

Nature has bestowed upon its shores a sand of pale pink, which falls off the toes and looks glorious against a blue sky and green sea. Canny marketing means that news of the sand has spread far and wide. Now, with the reopening of Pink Sands, a collection of upmarket cottages on a private stretch of beach, the island has become a hip place to wind down.

That Pink Sands does not look or feel out of place here is a tribute to the slightly anarchic style of Chris Blackwell, owner of Island Records, who recently added the place to his blossoming hotel empire. The resort is a fusion of colour, space and music, and harmonises perfectly with its laid-back setting.

The well-spaced cottages are swathed in shrubbery, according each a high degree of privacy. The bar and restaurants are spaces rather than rooms, and golf buggies inject a bit of fun into moving around the grounds.

The link with Blackwell has assured the resort of an affluent clientele drawn from pop and showbiz. The restaurant has become a place to eat and be seen.

However, just hanging out on the beach and in the bar spotting stars doesn't do the island justice. You could try starspotting on horseback, since you can go riding along the beach. A half-day fishing trip proved to be more fun than I had expected, partly because the fisherman had a habit of communing earnestly with his prey.

We were able to pass close to some of the deserted islands nearby, such as Man Island. Six of us, dropped off in pairs by our fishermen after a hard morning's casting, spent a few peaceful hours here, swimming in the still water, collecting shells and musing over a picnic.

The eventful day was crowned with an outing to Sea Grapes, the best nightspot on the island. It was more like a community centre than a club, and was buzzing as much outside as within. We hitched rides with islanders to other quieter bars, where the welcome was still warm and the rum just as strong.

Then, bathed in the wonderful warmth of the evening, it was time for a dip in the freshwater pool at Pink Sands, and a stroll along the beach. With a cocktail in hand, sand in my toes and the sound of the sea in my ears, I was ready to fall asleep in one of the most heavenly places on Earth.

ANJANA AHUJA

● *The author was a guest of the Bahamas Tourist Office. Island Outpost (0800 614790) offers half-board packages at Pink Sands from US$305 (£190) for a one-bedroom cottage in summer. Caribbean Connection (01244 341131), Elegant Resorts (01244 897999) and Caribtours (0171-581 3517) also offer packages to Pink Sands.*

Amsterdam from £59 rtn
Barcelona from £119 rtn
Cairo from £299 rtn
Larnaca from £129 rtn
South Africa from £398 rtn

Call now or see your travel agent. All fares listed are return from London. All fares may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger taxes excluded. For details and conditions see ITV Teletext page 380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop. Or book and pay at our internet site, http://www.british-airways.com

For these and many other World Offers call: 0345 222111

Book by 14th May '97.

WORLD OFFERS

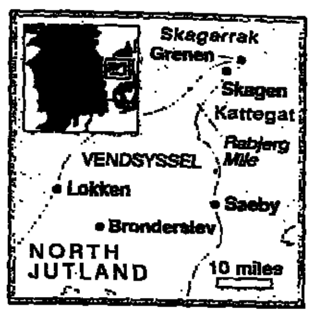
BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

http://www.british-airways.com

The Baltic: From the seductively gentle charm of Denmark to the wildlife in Finland's woods and lakes

Ain't nothing like a Dane



DENMARK FACT FILE

- Total cost of the author's holiday was about £400 including ferry, petrol, accommodation and food.
- Scandinavian Seaways (0990 333000) crosses from Harwich to Esbjerg, Jutland. From £443 for one car and driver; £551 for a car and four passengers.
- Accommodation: *Joining the YHA costs £9.30; a substantial and informative guidebook to European hostels is £6.29 to members.*
- Each hostel cost about £8.50 per night. I booked in advance by fax. Dormitories in Danish hostels are likely to be mixed-sex unless you request otherwise. Family and double rooms are available.
- *Food: In Jutland* basic fish and chip-type food can be found for DK65 (about £7.50) including a beer, on harbour quays or at hostel cafeterias. Some hostels offer breakfast, others have self-catering facilities.
- *Meals out (pizza, Chinese etc) cost about £12 per person including beer. Local cuisine,* such as smorgasbord, £12-£20 a head. About £100 (DK950) should see a person of moderate appetite, and with a taste for Scandinavian beer, through the week.
- Vendsyssel Festival: For 1997 brochures/details, call 00 45 9892 4588. A Blue Card gives entrance to all concerts for *DK400* (£39) for two.
- Further information: *Danish Tourist Board, 55 Sloane Street, London SWIX 9SY* (0171-259 5958).
- Reading: *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow,* by Peter Hoeg (Panther, £6.99). *Blue Guide Denmark* (A&C Black, £12.99).

Summer Evening on South Beach (detail) at the Skagen Museum

I always feel at home in north Jutland. No, I don't speak Danish, but it has never been a problem. I have always taken the attitude that our national *tongues stem* from one, basic north European language; it may not be historical fact, but it is a workable theory.

Let me explain. To understand Danish road signs, you merely pretend you are reading German, pronounce the words with a Dutch accent, and imagine you are listening to a Glaswegian. It really is as straightforward as that. A little lateral thinking helps, too. For example, let's say you arrive, as I did, in Saeby. *It is by the sea: transpose the* vowels. Easy.

If the weather is good you will head for the *strand* (beach, as in German); *if not,* the town *centrum, where the turistbureau* will probably recommend a visit to the *kirke* (Scots) with its vivacious medieval frescoes, or the nearby *Gedebjerget* ("Goat-mountain" — say *Gede* with a very heavy Dutch accent and think of *bjerg* as the German *berg.* OK, it is stretching it a bit). There you can enjoy views over the *historiske* little port before dropping off your letters home at the *posthus* (Dutch-Glaswegian).

If all that polyglottery sounds like too much effort, remember that most Danes speak near-perfect English and will bend over backwards to be helpful. In fact, they have made a cult of unhurried, hassle-free, tolerant existence, calling *it hygge: one word which even a Berlin-born Netherlander from the Gorbals* would be hard-pressed to translate. It is pure Danishness.

Nowhere are the Danes more Danish than in Vendsyssel, the tip of the Jutland peninsula. I love this place; when an unexpected work-break opened last summer, the yearning to be there was irresistible. The only hurdle was financial: Denmark is a relatively expensive country to reach and to subsist in. The solution was drastic but instantly effective. At the age of 40, I rejoined the Youth Hostel Association and took advantage of the cross-Channel price wars. I ferried cheaply *to Calais at dawn with my old* but *game* Fiat *Panda, then made the long trek north through* the Low Countries and Germany.

It was two days' hard drive, with a stopover north of Hamburg, but I reached Vendsyssel by mid-afternoon. My two Danish hostels, Saeby and Bronderslev, were spick and span and comfortable and both attached to leisure centres with thoroughly affordable cafeterias.

So what was it that lured me there? Vendsyssel is a very special stretch of land, but you have to be attuned to its pace and values. It is neither an Arctic tundra nor a Mediterranean hot-spot, being no further north than Inverness nor south than Aberdeen.

Having *said that, the* Danish summer can be glorious and there is no better place to be when the sun shines. A pewter-coloured beach is never more than 20 minutes' drive away, and the relaxed atmosphere there, with near-nudity optional but unexceptional for all ages, is wonderfully refreshing.

Saeby is a good place to begin acquaintance with Vendsyssel. A Viking harbour that mellowed into a fishing port, it retains a 19th-century atmosphere, with half-timbered houses painted *in warm ochres and rusts. Plaice and herring are dried and smoked on the quay, from* where you can follow the course of the river inland, walking between reed beds and pleasant lawns punctuated with quirky sculptures.

It is as quaint as north Jutland gets, but Saeby stops well short of being twee; go directly across to Lokken, on the west coast, and you will come across Vendsyssel's nearest thing to brashness. In fact, the contrast is not that great. Lokken allows cars on to its beach and you will see the flags of Norway, Sweden and Germany hoisted piratically above some of the venerable camper vans; but if any of these holidaying students play their radios too loudly for your *liking,* just move a little *further on.* There is plenty of *room for all.*

Inland you will discover a gentle landscape — *this is a* gentle country — of glacially chamfered hillocks clad in the blue-greens and yellow-golds of arable crops. Sprays of mauve or Wedgwood blue wildflower, and the ubiquitous chalk-coloured marguerite, dapple the meadows. Humanity is most often represented by white, signpost-shaped church towers or broad-hipped wooden windmills alongside their sleek young offspring, wind-turbines.

The scenery is more comforting than *dramatic — Denmark's highest bump reaches* a dizzy 147 metres and is called Sky Mountain, a typical piece of Danish wryness.

Explore Vendsyssel's undulations long enough and you will stumble across the strangest places: Rubjerg Knude, for example, is a lighthouse built in 1900 to warn mariners away from the shifting sands of the west coast. Nature struck back, piling up a huge dune to obscure the light. In 1968 the *Danes shrugged,* closed the *lighthouse* and turned the building into a museum — of sand. The final irony is that the museum is slowly being engulfed by the stuff it commemorates.

Further north you will come across a huge migratory dune, Rabjerg Mile, a mini-desert that roams the countryside. Once, habitation of *north Jutland was a constant battle against sand-drift and sand storms.* Canny planting finally calmed the terrain, but Rabjerg Mile has been left as a reminder of the past.

Continue north and you will come to Grenen, a final, tapering frond of sand at Denmark's very tip. On a warm day you will see holidaying Danes crowding on to this narrow space for the *pleasure of standing with each foot in a different sea — the* Skagerrak or the Kattegat. It is tradition, but whether it brings good luck or just a warm glow of *hygge* I cannot say. Below Grenen is the lively port-resort of Skagen, and one of my favourite spots — the museum of the Danish Impressionists.

A*n artists' colony settled* here in the late 19th century, to take advantage of the prismatic light. P.S. Kroyer and his colleagues captured on canvas the lunar silver of the beaches, the skies' glorious transition from deep cobalt overhead through luminous gradations of blue to the translucent eggshell of the horizon.

This time my visit to the *museum had a special magic,* for it was the setting for a concert in the Vendsyssel Festival. Each summer, in July and August, Danish and visiting musicians give concerts in venues throughout the region.

The atmosphere is intimate and friendly and the quality of performance is high. On this occasion Denmark's internationally renowned *Kontra Quartet gave an extra vibrance to the paintings.*

As I looked at the glowing canvases and at the wise, open faces of the Danes around me, I realised why I feel so strongly about this museum. These artists celebrated the beauty and goodness of Vendsyssel. Like me, they thought it one of the most special places on earth.

BRIAN HUNT

PICTURES

Rubjerg Knude, a lighthouse built in 1900, is now a museum dedicated to sand but is slowly being engulfed by the stuff it commemorates

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25

SHILLING'S ORIFICE

(c) At the start of the 1939-45 war there was extreme concern that in real *combat the Hurricanes and Spitfires suffered a severe loss of power when going into a dive. This was traced to loss of gravity in the carburettor. The* German Me 109, having direct injection, did not suffer this problem. A Miss Shilling of RAE Farnborough solved the problem and made her name with a diaphragm with a small hole (orifice) placed inside the float chamber of the carburettor.

UROPHYSIS

(b) At the hind end of the spinal cord of fishes is a small lump consisting of masses of secretion produced by neurosecretory cells of the spinal cord, *and hence called the urophysis. Its function appears to be connected with* salt *regulation. Injection of hypertonic* NaCl *produces hypersecretion,* the products accumulating at the cut surface if the cord has been severed.

KWANGA

(b) In Zaïre (formerly the Congo), a kind of bread made of manioc. The native name. "In those happy days ten cakes of kwanga could be bought for one brass rod."

KOWHAI

(a) A leguminous plant of New Zealand (*Sophora tetraptera*) bearing golden-yellow flowers. From the Maori name. Rudyard Kipling, *Seven Seas,* 1896: "Buy the kowhai's gold/ Flung for gift on Taupo's face."

All the beasts of the forest

Jari Peltomaki settled the feet of his tripod among the bilberries and rotting, moss-covered logs of the woodland floor and gestured for me to look through the eyepiece of the telescope. Staring fiercely through the other end were the unblinking yellow eyes of a great grey owl. The bird seemed enormous, *more than 2ft tall with the unmistakeable facial discs around its eyes emphasised by regular dark* contour lines. It sat bolt upright on a branch and sent deep booming "Hoo-hoo-hoos" ringing through the trees.

A higher and more plaintive "yap-yap-yap" came in response from one of her distant youngsters, *newly fledged but as yet unable to fly any* distance. Another large owl, her mate, swept up to the perch and without bothering to close his wings, swooped away again. For a moment I saw the silhouette of a great grey owl against a light sky with a *short-tailed vole hanging limply from her bill; then she was away to silence the complaints of her shrill* youngster with breakfast.

Peltomaki's owls had taken up residence in part of Finland's vast national forest, described by Marcus Walsh of Birdlife International in Helsinki as "not some great nature reserve but a huge tree field cropped at longer intervals than agriculture's normal annual harvest". But to someone from a country about two-thirds the size of Finland and 11 times its population these thousands of miles of open-access forest were bliss. Little of it is original uncut or "old growth" forest, however, for *most of that is along the Russian border where it abuts* a similar habitat on the other side.

This is a stronghold of wolves, wolverines and brown bears and I stayed the night with Lassi Rautiainen, a Finnish wildlife photographer. We slept in his hide, no more than a big wooden box, just a kilometre from the Russian border, with a couple of dead cows outside to attract the bears which were prowling around. The first one rolled out of the forest into the clearing like a Russian tank. After a cautious entrance, he reached the first cow and, *taking hold of it in his massive* jaws, bunched his muscles and tugged it nearer to the forest, before wrenching off great chunks of flesh.

He disappeared and was replaced by two more bears, a male and his mate. I watched until past midnight, making full use of 24 hours of daylight to enjoy this rare spectacle.

The likelihood is that more Finns have seen Saimaa seals than bears, though, despite the fact that there are only about *200 of these endangered subspecies* of the ringed seal left in existence. They have become something of a conservation cause and live in a small area of Lake Saimaa.

This is a convoluted and intricate body of water covering more than 400 square kilometres *and is one of Finland's 186,000 lakes. I spent an evening on its shores* with Jukka Jantunen and his family, enjoying home-cooked Finnish food, freshly smoked fish, wonderful bird watching and a sauna.

Finland has an excellent system of well-funded national parks and other protected *areas but one which has failed to receive the protection it deserves is* Liminganlahti Bay, an internationally important site for breeding and migrating wildfowl on the Gulf of Bothnia.

It has been recognised by the World Wide Fund for Nature and has been declared a Natura 2000 site under a European Habitats Directive but, as Peltomaki *told me in exasperation: "Every summer* hunters are still allowed to shoot more ducks here than hatch in the spring."

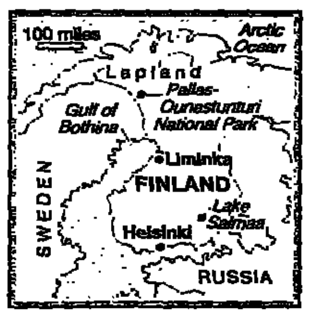
The long-standing Finnish tradition of the macho-hunter surviving against all the odds in the wilderness is difficult to eradicate.

MICHAEL WOODS

● *The author was a guest of the Finnish Tourist Board and Finnature.*

FACT FILE

- Finnair (0990 997711) has regular flights from Heathrow to Helsinki, from £224 return. Internal flights to Oulu cost from £101.
- Finnature (00 358 8 381914) runs tailor-made wildlife tours, with B&B from £15 per night and forest guides from £25 per hour.
- *Contact the Finnish Tourist Board, 30-35 Pall Mall, London* SW1Y 5LP (0171-930 5871).
- Reading: *Where to watch birds in Scandinavia* (Hamlyn Birdwatching Guides £16.99).



FREE WINE, FREE WATERSPORTS, FREE MEALS & FREE CHILDCARE.

Flights, transfers & accommodation from only £345

Mark Warner holidays are famous for everything that's included. During May and June certain beach clubs are also famous for what's not included – they're completely child free. And now more will cost you even less, with **savings on selected departures of well over £100.**

TURKEY • GREECE • ITALY • CORSICA • SARDINIA

Mark Warner beach clubs

ABTA V1708 ATOL 1176

Call now to book on 0171 393 3131
24hr brochure line: 0171 393 0094 quoting reference TS7

SPECIAL OFFER

from £449

CEYLON BEACH

12 nights on half board

TROPICAL VILLAS: charming, friendly medium class hotel, on Sri Lanka's southwest coast at Beruwela. Set amidst lovely tropical gardens (5 mins walk to beach). Swimming pool, bar, restaurant. 54 airconditioned rooms: spacious, attractively furnished, split level, with king size bed, minibar, sitting area, shower/wc, balcony/terrace overlooking gardens.

Departure date:	Price:	Departure date:	Price:
10 May '97	£449	03,09 Aug	£629
24 May	£459	28 Aug	£599
31 May, 07 Jun	£449	04,18 Oct	£499
21 Jun	£459	30 Oct	£479
12 Jul	£579	06,20 Nov	£479
19 Jul	£599	11 Dec	£499

3 nt tour incl Kandy & Nuwara Eliya £79 extra

The price includes: Scheduled flts/Heathrow. 12 nts accom. Full b'fast/dinner daily. Optional 3 nt tour (if taken): all meals Kandy/Nuwara Eliya. B'fast: Mt. Lavinia. Prices per person sharing double. Transfers. Not included: UK departure tax (£10 will be added to invoice (£20 from 01 Nov)). Subject to booking conditions. Local departure tax. Optional insurance: £52.

To book, telephone (open daily inc. Sat/Sun):

☎ 01306 744300

Fax: 01306 744334

ABTA V258X
ATOL 132

The Travel Collection, Deepdene House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ.

The Travel Collection

Britain: On the trail of Laurie Lee in the Gloucestershire countryside plus the pick of gardens to visit

Untouched by green wellies

It was under a haywain in Gloucestershire that Laurie Lee swigged at a flagon of cider with Rosie. While the farmer's men all scythed and raked and turned the long dry grass of the Cotswold valleys, the future author stole his first heady kiss from the smiling girl whose hair was "rich as a wild bee's nest" and whose eyes "were full of stings".

The Gloucestershire countryside was on the cusp of change even then. "I belonged to that generation which saw, by chance, the end of a thousand years' life," wrote Lee. In recent years, new images of this county have been stamped on to the mind by the tread of the Range Rover tyre and the imprint of the green wellington. But the essence of a quainter age still lingers, and there is time during a weekend to uncover it.

Gloucestershire is still a county of little stone villages "moored like ships in the empty landscape", of beechwoods dripping with rainwater and lush summer valleys slumbering in the haze.

Almost 100 years before Lee was deposited by carrier's cart in the Cotswold landscape which he was to make his own, Captain Robert Holford was planting the first trees of his arboretum in nearby Westonbirt.

During his lifetime, and that of his son George, trees and shrubs were collected from all over the world's temperate zones and laid out in Westonbirt's magnificent 600-acre landscape. A Saturday afternoon stroll is long enough to appreciate it, but only determined walkers should attempt to get from one end to the other and back.

Now the largest arboretum in Europe, Westonbirt is beautiful during any season of the year. In the winter when, with early nightfall, the paths are lit with twinkling lights, it is a world of glass, sparkling and motionless. The frosty skeletons of deciduous trees etch brittle patterns against the sombre firs.

In the spring, where the ancient Silk Wood sweeps across a shallow valley, carpets of bluebells dust the ground, rhododendrons flare amid pools of sunlight and clouds of blossom bank the sky. The lime avenue in summer is dizzy with bees and nearby beech trees stand, as Lee himself might have remembered them, drenched in sun as if with "wild wet honey". But it is perhaps in the autumn that the arboretum is most glorious, when maple leaves blaze in gold and crimson and the glades burst into burnished flame.

Not far from Westonbirt the landscape changes, slipping away into the watery fields of the Severn's eastern bank. It was there that in 1946 Sir Peter Scott founded Slimbridge, his Wildlife and Wetlands Trust reserve. It is the world's most famous sanctuary for water birds, and for the weekend visitor to Gloucestershire it well merits a visit of several hours. Bird enthusiasts will obviously want to spend all day there.

When I last visited it was winter time, when the migrant birds — some 12,000 of them — return. With a paper bag of grain in my hand, I walked like a guru among his worshipping flock. Geese gathered around me with watchful greed; gawky cygnets pecked at my palms and allowed me to stroke their downy necks.

I threw a handful of grain into the water and watched 100 little ducks' bottoms all upturn. Flotillas of pochards and pintails, shelduck and smew scrambled and squabbled around the gliding prows of a fleet of graceful swans.

Boarded walkways lead visitors through the marshes — studded in summer with the purples and golds of wetland blooms. The waterlogged air echoes with the cry of the lapwing and the whistle of teal. From a hide overlooking the estuary flats I watched curlew and whimbrel, a godwit and some gulls. And I stayed watching until my fingers were frozen, curled round the binoculars, and the rims of my ears were burning with cold.

Back at Calcot Manor, the hotel where I was staying, I warmed myself slowly by an open fire. It, too, seemed part of a world which Lee might have known — like the "big house" where he sang carols, perhaps, with its "ivied walls ... and gabled windows veiled by cedar trees".

I telephoned a friend who lived nearby to invite her to join me for dinner. "Calcot Manor?" she said. "That was where my husband proposed to me."

Times may have changed since Lee first drank cider with Rosie Burdoch, but for those prepared to spend a couple of days searching, they have not changed too much.

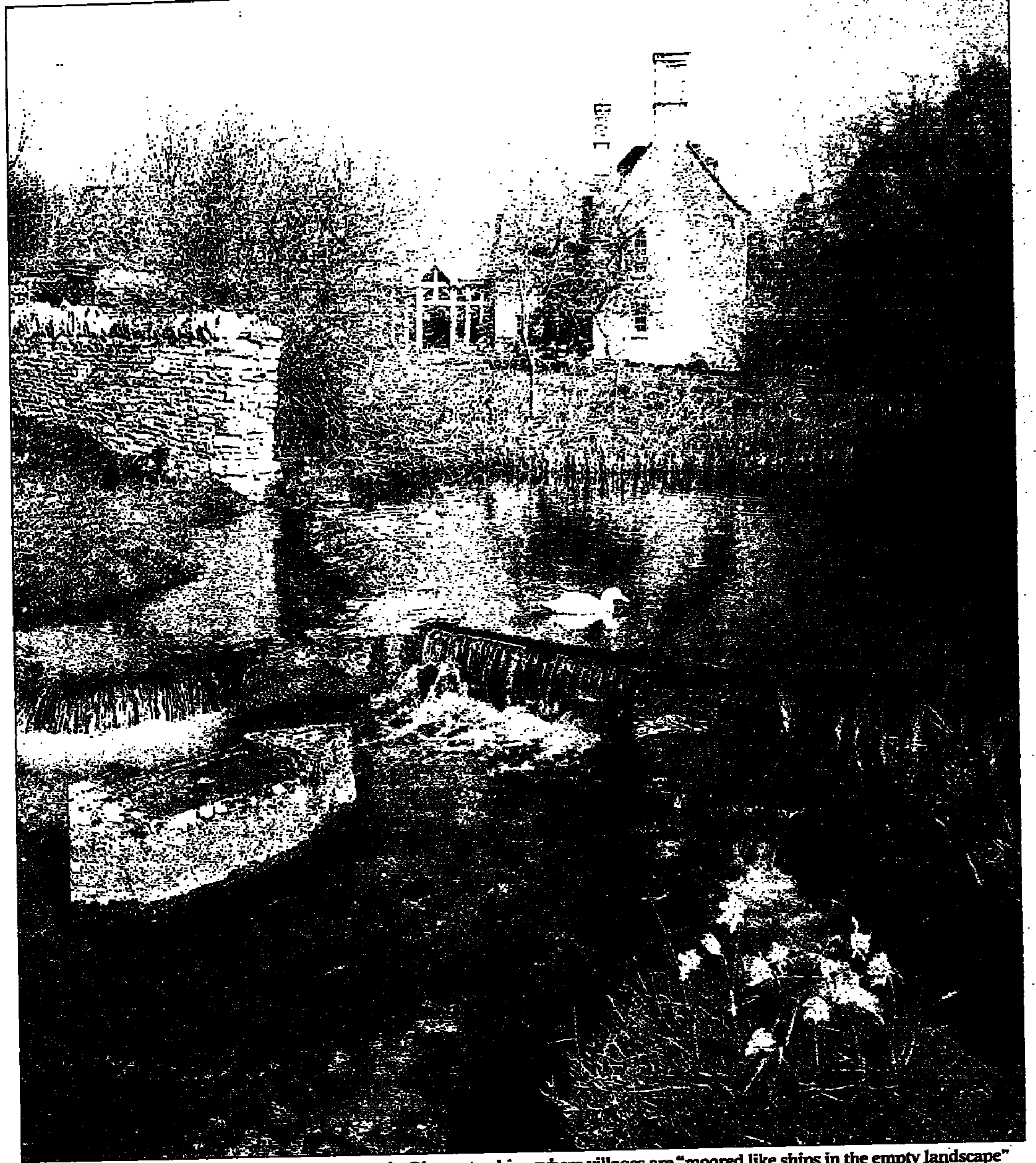
RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

● *The author was a guest at Calcot Manor.*

FACT FILE

- **Calcot Manor, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire (01666 890391). Double rooms cost from £48.50 per person per night, B&B. Two-night Cotswold breaks from £69 per person per night B&B. Family rooms cost £145 per night for two adults and up to three children.**
- **Other places to stay include: Hunters Hall, Kingscote, Tetbury (01453 860393), a 16th-century coaching inn: £45 single room, £60 double room.**
- **Other places to visit in the area include:**
  Chavenage, an Elizabethan house near Tetbury with an interesting history.
  Owlpen Manor, Owley, near Uley, an attractive medieval manor house.
  Hodges Barn, near Tetbury, a 15th-century dovecot with magnificent gardens.
  The Cotswold Countryside Collection, Northleach, a museum of rural life.

PAUL FELIX



The hamlet of Hilcot near Laurie Lee country in Gloucestershire, where villages are "moored like ships in the empty landscape"

Led up a perfect garden path

Younger Botanic Garden lies amid breathtaking scenery in the West of Scotland

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

■ **Younger Botanic Garden, Benmore, Dunoon, Strathclyde (01369 706261)**

7m north of Dunoon on A815. Open tomorrow for Scotland's Garden Scheme and then daily to end Oct, 10am-6pm. £2, children 50p

Overlooking the Eachaig River and Holy Loch, with hills all around, Younger Botanic enjoys one of the most spectacular positions of any garden in Britain. And being part of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, the 150 acres, where planting began during the 1820s, form a rare treasure-house of horticultural importance. Spring and early summer are the most rewarding times to visit, and the annual open day for Scotland's Garden Scheme could hardly be better timed. Early-flowering varieties among the garden's immense rhododendron collection will be out, but magnolias are almost as well represented and the host of other flowering trees and shrubs, such as one of my favourite families, enkianthus, is seemingly endless. The approach along a truly majestic avenue of Wellingtonias — the best in the country — gives an introduction to the scale of conifers that can be expected. You can spend all day wandering the paths and enjoying the combined quality of plants and landscape.

■ **Erdigg, Wrexham, Clwyd (01978 355314)**

2m south of Wrexham off A525. Open daily except Thursday and Friday until November 2, 11am-6pm. £3.60, children £1.80

This is the time to visit Erdigg, when the apple blossom is out — but bear in mind that the garden becomes very busy on bank holiday weekends. House and garden are one of the National Trust's great rescue stories. Both were in an advanced state of decline (the last member of the Yorke family, who worked for years to hold the property together, was reputed to tether a goat on the lawn in place of using a mower) when acquired by the Trust in 1973, but restoration led to Erdigg swiftly becoming a favourite with visitors. The long brick house is early 18th century, and the garden was restored with the principal aim of retaining a formal garden of the immediate pre-landscape period. The Yorke family, who lived in Erdigg for nearly 300 years, continued to change the garden and this is carefully reflected in the Trust's work. In front of the house, the 19th-century parterre is now planted with forget-me-nots that will later make way for a scheme of midsummer flowers. The brick walls that flank the long rectangular garden support espalier apples, while the central area is dominated by a formally planted orchard containing many rare apple varieties which were in cultivation during the early 18th century. Avenues of fresh-leafed pleached limes, an original formal canal and clipped yews and Portuguese laurels add to the atmosphere of well-planned orderliness.

RUPERT TRUMAN

Erdigg was saved from its decline by the National Trust

■ **Pashley Manor, Ticehurst, Wadhurst, Kent (01580 200692)**

On the B2099 between Ticehurst and A21. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Bank Holiday Mondays to end Sept and October 21-26. 11am-5pm. £3.50, children £3

It is always interesting to visit a garden where extensive renovation has been carried out, as is the case at Pashley. The elegant house with its main façade dated 1720, the terraces, moat and parkland setting all provide a sense of establishment which makes for easy accommodation of changes. These have been carried out since the late 1980s, with an emphasis on new beds with quantities of shrub roses and a variety of flowering shrubs. At their peak now are the rhododendrons and azaleas around the ponds and leading to the woodland area which forms the second part of the garden, quite different in style from the house's immediate surroundings. The variety is completed by the restored brick-walled kitchen garden. From May 1-5 there is a tulip festival, one of a series of events at Pashley through the year, when the display of tulips in the garden is complemented by arrangements in the house. (Admission for the tulip festival is £4.50 for adults.)

Pashley Manor offers three contrasting styles of garden

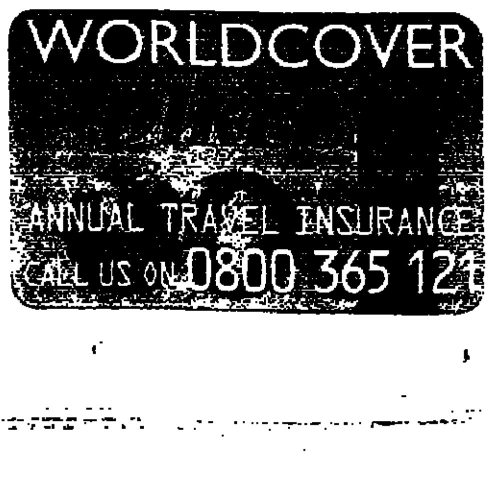
■ **Hartland Abbey, Hartland, near Bideford, Devon (01237 441264)**

At Hartland Point, 15m west of Bideford, 5m off A39. Open tomorrow for National Garden Scheme, then May 1 to end September, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holidays (and Tuesdays in July and August), 2-5.30pm. £1.50, children 50p.

Hartland occupies one of the most sensational positions imaginable, and is worth the journey just to discover the house sitting serenely in a long wooded valley stretching inland from the dramatic coast at Hartland Point, with its high cliffs. It was the last monastery in England to fall in the Dissolution on account of its remoteness. The surroundings are completed by the tower of St Nectan's church on the hilltop beyond the house. The latter was adapted from the original abbey buildings, with the garden lying mostly on slopes either side of the open grass valley. Tomorrow visitors can enjoy the sheltered walled gardens as well as the more extensive areas of woodland garden where camellias and a good variety of other flowering shrubs are at their best. No visit is complete without taking the path, lined with wildflowers, that leads to the coast, and you leave reassured that there are still a few places in England where modern development has not intruded.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

0171 734 9822
for brochure.
Join us for a drink.
NOBODY EVER GOES JUST ONCE



هكذا من الاطلس

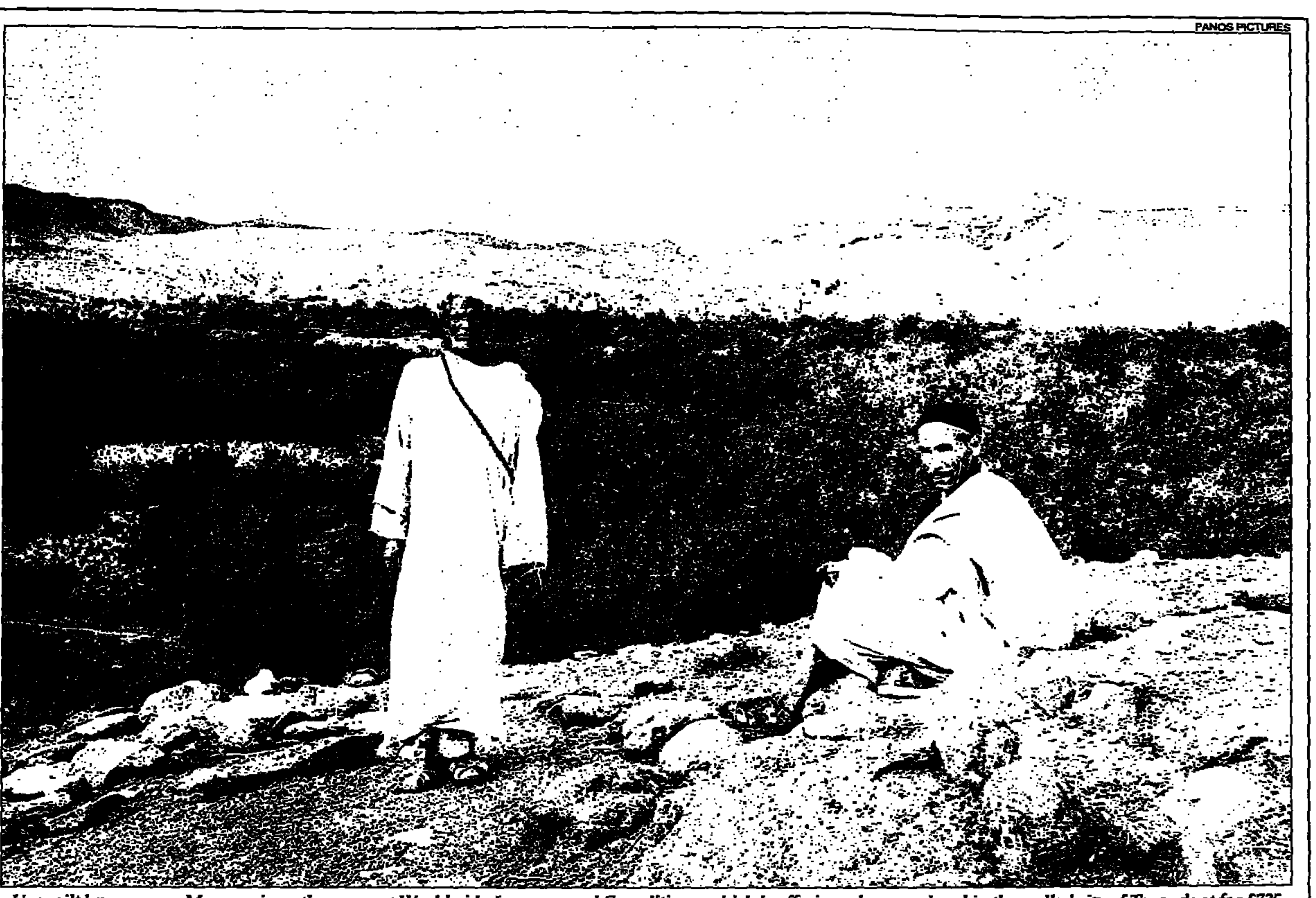
AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Bound for Morocco

EXOTIC if expensive trips from Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions (0171-381 8638) include a long weekend in southern Morocco's ancient red-earth walled city of Taroudant.

The accommodation is the five-star Gazelle d'Or Hotel, tucked away in secluded 250-acre gardens and orange groves, with the snowcapped Atlas Mountains as a backdrop. Taroudant's souks are excellent and the resort of Agadir is nearby. Flights, transfers and three nights' half-board accommodation are included in the price of £725.

PANOS PICTURES



Unspoilt by progress: Morocco is on the menu at Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions, which is offering a long weekend in the walled city of Taroudant for £725

A quick look at Lebanon

THE historical highlights of the Lebanon are included on the new three-night tour from Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) with £527 covering flights, B&B accommodation and guiding throughout.

Byblos is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in the world, with Roman columns embedded in Arab walls, Hellenistic remains packed with prehistoric stones. The enchanting fishing village also claims the first Roman example of the alphabet, as well as giving its name to the Bible — the word means book. The site of Baalbek, the ancient City of the Sun, shocks by its sheer vastness. Just one of its smaller temples is larger than the Parthenon, though as a symbol of power the Roman city proved a largely vain gesture.

An Islamic Umayad 8th-century walled city and the 18th-century Arabian Beiteddine Palace are also on the itinerary. Fly-drive breaks are available for those who prefer to explore independently.

■ **FOR those wanting to get away immediately after the election, Arblaster & Clarke (01730 893344) offers a champagne weekend from May 3-5. The price of £269 includes coach travel, ferry crossing, two nights' accommodation in a three-star hotel in Rheims with champagne for breakfast, one lunch and dinner, and a champagne tasting.**

Famous food

A TEMPTING collection of short breaks have been organised by Inntravel (01653 628811). They include walking (with luggage transported), cookery, gastronomic, fly-drive and treasure hunts, staying in family-run auberges and hotels in unspoilt nooks and crannies of France, Spain and Italy.

A three-night fly-drive break in wooded Cathar country in the picture postcard village of Najac costs £329. It is based at the Oustal del Barry, which has been in the same family for generations and where the mansard rooms overlook medieval streets, the River Aveyron and a fairy-tale ruined 13th-century castle. People come from far and wide for the regional cooking. The price includes flights, car hire and half-board.

■ **A WEEKEND break organised by Cycling for Softies (0161-248 8282) at Duras, in the Dordogne and Garonne, put the Bordeaux and Bergerac vineyards within easy biking reach for wine tastings. The price of £380 covers two nights' half-board in a family-run hotel with its own pool and cycle hire, but not flights.**

Right for Riga

GOVERNMENTS form and dissolve every few months in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but few locals care and tourists rarely notice. Their capital cities of Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius can now offer considerably more 1990s comforts but with 1970s prices in local shops and restaurants.

Three nights B&B in Tallinn from Bristol-based Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) costs £210, in Riga £252 and in Vilnius £246, including direct flights from Heathrow or Gatwick.

Battle memories

HISTORY and battlefield specialist Holts' Tours (01304 612248) is offering a number of new guided tours in its 21st anniversary brochure. A four-night Peninsular Walk "The Stand on the Frontier — 1810-1812" studies the cat-and-mouse game of 1810 played around Almeida and along the River Coa, moving on to the horizons of Salamanca where "... forty thousand French were beat in forty minutes". This costs £981.

It is 80 years since General Plumer led the successful capture of Messines before the disaster of Ypres: a two-night tour in June, staying in Ypres (half-board) with visits to the battlefields and trenches, costs £305, including the ferry crossing. The Last Post ceremony in Ypres is a heart-wrencher.

■ **CITY breaks of four nights for £650 between June and August from Specialised Tours (01342 712785) combine Helsinki with a visa-free cruise to St Petersburg. After flying to Helsinki for one night's B&B, the break continues with a three-night cruise to the Russian city (with full board), and a half-day sightseeing tour.**

Austrian value

IMPROVING exchange rates of nearly 20 schillings to £1 make Austria affordable, and a four-night break at the luxury Relais & Château Gruner Baum Hotel near Badgastein, with all meals and drinks, and a massage and facial in the hotel's thermal spa, represents genuine value for £315. Once a hunting lodge belonging to Archduke Johann, the old wooden chalet-style hotel has been in the same family for generations.

An excursion in the hotel's vintage picnic car and a hearty mountain breakfast in the hills are also part of the deal, which lasts until June 17. Flights from Lauda Air cost £197 return. Details from Windotel (0171-730 7144).

JILL CRAWSHAW'S ELECTION GETAWAYS

Natural break

THE north Norfolk coast with its secretive creeks, dunes and reserves is a birdwatchers' delight in May, when the harriers, bitterns, bearded tits and avocets are preening themselves over their breeding sites, and the freshwater marshes are teeming with waders.

Naturetrek (01962 733051) has a two-night mid-May break when the aim is to find and identify as many East Anglian species as possible. The base is the resort-cum-working port of Wells-next-the-Sea, and the price is £149 half board.

If Norfolk is the Mecca for birds, Ireland's strange limestone Burren is a natural rock garden that nurtures a huge variety of colourful and unique plants. Naturetrek's three-night half-board weekend from May 23-26 costs £299 (without flights) with hotel accommodation at Lisdoonvarna. Both trips are led by experts.

■ **A CHANCE to learn a hobby which can become an obsession is offered by Angling Travel (01263 761602). Its two-night weekend courses in the UK, with John Bailey, the expert fisherman and television presenter, include trout fishing in June and September on the Wye and Dove rivers, staying at a country house hotel. The weekend courses cost from £249 half-board.**

Time for Tunis

THOUGH Tunisia's coast is well packaged, its capital Tunis, the "Cairo" of the Oscar-winning film *The English Patient*, is relatively unknown and deserves much more attention.

A large colourful Medina, fine restaurants and the Bardo Museum with a superb collection of Roman mosaics are among the attractions, plus suburbs that include Carthage and the beautiful blue and white village of Sidi Bou Said, both accessible by the jolly little TGM train that leaves from Avenue Habib Bourguiba. Panorama (01273 206531) has three and four-night B&B breaks which include flights, from £199-£329.

Bargain offers

SAVINGS of up to 25 per cent and more have been announced by short-break specialist Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333).

A four-night break in a three-star hotel in the centre of Madrid with B&B, is reduced to £299 from £357. A two-night break to Paris travelling by Eurostar with accommodation in a central three-star hotel, a Seine minicruise, a *carnet* of Metro tickets and dinner at Brasserie Flo, now costs £263.

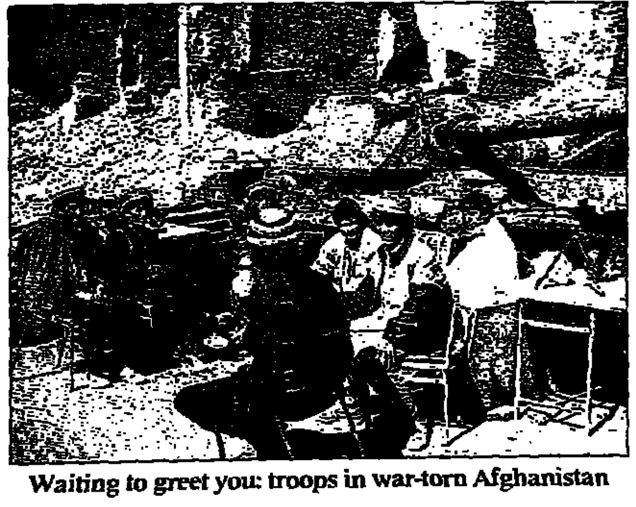
■ **PERFORMANCES of *Tosca, La Traviata, Cosi Fan Tutte* and *Madame Butterfly* at Prague's State Opera House are the highlights of a series of two-night weekend breaks (Saturday night must be one of them) with Fregata (0171-451 7066). The breaks cost £348 including B&B at a three-star hotel, return flights from Heathrow and a city tour. Opera tickets are between £20 and £30.**

Wish you were here?

Jeremy Seal

on the travel guide to hell

TRIP



Waiting to greet you: troops in war-torn Afghanistan

A guidebook which tells the going rate charged by the Chechen mafia for battlefront tours, how to bribe your way out of jail and how to survive shell or rocket attacks in war zones is doing brisk business. It is even outselling some of the mainstream travel guides.

The first edition of American publisher Fielding's *The World's Most Dangerous Places* sold 30,000 copies in America last year. Since January, when the second edition was first distributed in Britain, it has been selling "surprisingly well", says Douglas Schatz at Stanfords Travel Bookshop, Covent Garden, central London.

The guide covers threats from terrorists and brutal dictatorships to disease and getting caught up in the drugs business. Information on comparative death rates in notorious minibus taxis from Lima to Nairobi is also included. You are advised against flying in Russia, Colombia and India, and told to watch out for tourist crime in Brazil, Spain and Florida ("As soon as you don that Hawaiian shirt, you may as well paint a bull's eye on your back").

There are assessments on more than 30 "dangerous" places, with Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Colombia and Somalia heading the list. Separate sections concentrate on places that are forbidden to Americans (but often not to Brits), such as Iran and Cuba.

Because many of the featured countries — Iran, Burma, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Turkey — are available through tour operators, it is tempting to put the success of *Dangerous Places* down to a death wish among travellers. In fact, the tour operators that feature such countries conspicuously avoid the danger spots.

Steppes East features Burma and Cambodia, notorious for anti-personnel mines. "There is a risk," says Nick Laing, the managing director, "but only if you go way off the tourist routes, which we do not." Exodus has been so successful selling Iran that it is running a new tour this year to the country's Valley of the Assassins — not the alarming place it sounds but impressive trekking country.

Despite the Japanese embassy siege in Lima, Peru has attracted 50 per cent more tourists every year since 1994.

The guide's writers are veterans of everything from jail and mid-air hijacks to attacks by African killer bees. Emulating them is apparently not much of a factor in buying the book. "Sure, there's always the occasional nutcase heading for Burundi," says Hugh Brune at Portfolio, the guide's UK distributor, "but it's an armchair read for most people."

So sit back and read about Algeria, "the world's most dangerous place for foreigners; a country where fundamentalists ... like to cut throats and shoot expats", and eye-witness accounts of meeting warlords in eastern Turkey, and surviving the Los Angeles riots.

Richard Trillo, at Rough Guides, considers the book "ghoulish but fascinating", and thinks it will have added appeal for people who travelled to now-banned destinations, such as Afghanistan, in happier days.

In case you are planning such a trip, *Dangerous Places* prints a lengthy disclaimer by the publishers.

● *The World's Most Dangerous Places* (Fielding, £13.95).

"What can I do with that old barn?"

See p.23

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Singles get an unfair deal

From Mary Simmons, Abingdon:

I sympathise with Jean Lefley (Weekend, April 12) wanting to travel to Italy at a leisurely pace. I am also alone, as are thousands of others who are widowed or single. My main concern is that you have to pay a hefty supplement for a single room. I cannot understand why you should have to pay so much more for a holiday than somebody sharing a twin-bedded room. Even if you go away with a friend, you do not necessarily want to share a room with them. I did last year and discovered that she snored.

From Clifford Homan, Driffield, East Yorkshire:

It would appear Cuba is becoming ever more favoured as a holiday destination by the British. This is fine as Cuba is desperately short of dollars and, in addition, several consumer items. May I appeal to anyone travelling there to take ballpoint pens to give to children, T-shirts of all sizes and chewing gum. But the most important commodity is soap, which is severely rationed (a small, hotel complimentary-sized bar per family per month). A few small gifts such as these would make an appreciable difference to Cubans.

● *We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to: Letters, Travel Department,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN or fax 0171-782 5124.*

Go-slow in Greece

TRAVEL NEWS

■ **HOLIDAYMAKERS** already suffering this week from airport and ferry disruptions face yet another summer of travel discontent with warnings of long delays in flights to Greece.

Leaked documents from the Greek Civil Aviation Authority claim that 45 per cent of radar equipment at Greek airports is out of order, along with the landing systems at Athens and Rhodes airports.

Other technical problems have led to an urgent plea from the GCAA to resolve the issue. It warns that otherwise it would be unable to cope with the volume of air traffic and flight numbers would consequently have to be reduced.

The warning follows the closure of Gatwick, Luton and Stansted airports last Monday due to bomb threats, and also the blockade of Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk by French fishermen.

■ **CRUISING** is becoming a younger person's holiday — but only slowly. Last year, the average British cruise passenger was aged 56, two years younger than in 1994, according to the Passenger Shipping Association.

More than 429,000 people took a cruise in 1996, up by a fifth over 1995, with the Mediterranean accounting for 40 per cent of the market. And this growing appeal has brought about stronger competition and lower prices.

The average price paid last year was £1,191, compared to £1,385 two years ago.

■ **A NEW** car ferry service will connect Liverpool to Dublin from June 12. The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company (01624 645645) will operate a conventional daily ferry, the journey taking six and a half hours. On Wednesdays a catamaran will run, trimming two hours off the trip.

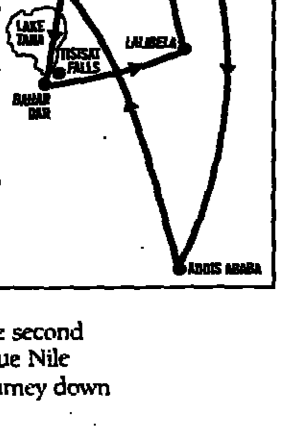
■ **THE STRENGTH** of sterling against several currencies has seen Keith Prowse (01232 232425) reduce the price of tickets to Port Aventura theme park near Barcelona. Adult prices for one-day tickets fall to £20 (from £22.50) and child prices to £15.50 (from £17.50). Two and three-day tickets are also available.

■ **ELECTION** day also sees the start of a Gatwick-Lisbon service by AB Airlines. The company (0345 464748) is operating twice a day (once on Saturdays), with fares starting at £119 return.

■ **GROWING** tourist and business travel interest in the Baltic states has seen Estonian Air cut fares to Tallinn. The airline (0171-333 0196), which flies from Gatwick, has cut fares to £230, although a Saturday night stay is required.

■ **FLYING** from Gatwick is most likely to add to holiday delays, according to new statistics from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Charter flights were delayed by an average 45 minutes last year, the worst of five airports studied. Gatwick was also slowest in 1995, with average 37-minute delays. Next worst is Manchester, averaging 34 minutes wait (1995: 33); Stansted 29 (32); Luton 24 (29) and Birmingham 21 (25).



RETURN TO ETHIOPIA

A 14 DAY JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FOR THE GENUINE TRAVELLER

In the past decade few travellers have visited Ethiopia. We are therefore delighted to be able to arrange for small parties of up to fifteen participants to return to this ancient land. Without doubt, Ethiopia offers the most ancient cultural heritage of all sub-Saharan Africa, a land without equal.

With a recorded history which began in the 6th century BC, with the drawing of the Auximite civilisation, there sprang a line of Emperors who ruled with few interruptions until the death of Haile Salassie. Our visit will include their palaces in the old capital of Gondar and at Addis Ababa.

Christianity reached Ethiopia some 200 years before it arrived in Britian. On our visit to Lalibela we will see the amazing 12th century church, hewn from the rock. We will visit the island monasteries of Lake Tana and the ancient Monastery of Debre Libanos spectacularly located at the bottom of a large gorge through which runs one of the tributaries of the Blue Nile.

Natural wonders will also be included. The second largest falls in Africa are at Tisisat, here the Blue Nile cascades into its gorge and begins its long journey down through the plateau and on to the Sudan.

Travellers to Ethiopia are assured of a warm welcome but must be prepared for simple accommodation outside the main centres. They will however, be rewarded with the unique opportunity of an extraordinary travel experience in a profoundly beautiful land.

NEW ITINERARY - SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA

A 15 day itinerary with departures from 14 November 1997 is now available. Ask us for details.

DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON

In twin bedded room

27 October - £2180
17 November - £2195
22 December - £2290
19 January; 2, 16 February - £2195
Single room supplement - £295

Prices subject to surcharge.

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 12 nights accommodation in Ethiopia, full board throughout except breakfast only in Addis Ababa, excursions and entrance fees, porterage, UK departure tax, local guides and services of Tour Manager.
Not included: Travel insurance, visa, airport taxes, lunches and dinners in Addis Ababa.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376
(7 days a week during office hours)

NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED

11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0834
24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424
ATOL 3108 ABTA V321X

TRAVEL

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1989 (TRADE)
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)
FAX: 0171 782 7824

CHECK-IN

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

(incl. taxes)	one way from	return		one way from	return		one way from	return
SYDNEY	£297	£569	NEW YORK	£122	£189	MEXICO CITY	£251	£282
PERTH	£329	£599	BOSTON	£149	£195	LIMA	£319	£534
CAIRNS	£333	£569	FLORIDA	£165	£241	INDIA	£199	£329
AUCKLAND	£369	£595	LOS ANGELES	£217	£256	JO'BURG	£277	£329
BANGKOK	£238	£396	SAN FRANCISCO	£217	£256	CAPE TOWN	£297	£329
HONG KONG	£398	£459	LAS VEGAS	£256	£256	HARARE	£297	£329
SINGAPORE	£242	£399	DENVER	£256	£256	NAIROBI	£197	£269
BALI	£249	£415	TORONTO	£139	£139	DUBAI	£182	£234
PEKING	£251	£334	VANCOUVER	£265	£287	CAIRO	£122	£204
TOKYO	£275	£495	CARIBBEAN	£242	£242	AROUND THE WORLD		£683

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £31 • AFRICA £31 • PACIFIC £40 • ASIA £27

USA CAR HIRE FROM £12 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR WORLDWIDE OR NORTH AMERICA TAILORMADE BROCHURE

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

AUSTRALIA FROM £849 RETURN
WITH QANTAS & BRITISH AIRWAYS
INCLUDES 7 DAYS FREE CAR HIRE*
Departures in November '97 or 21 January-31 March '98.
*Based on 2 people travelling. Conditions apply. Supplement applies to car hire in Northern Territory.

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • WORLDWIDE ITINERARIES

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop. *Trailfinders offers* more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 65% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE NEW TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

42-50 Earls Court Road • **LONDON** W8 6FT
Long Haul Travel: **0171-938 3366**
194 Kensington High Street • **LONDON** W8 7RG
Long Haul Travel: **0171-938 3939**
First & Business Class: **0171-938 3444**
215 Kensington High Street • **LONDON** W8 6BD
Transatlantic & European: **0171-937 5400**
22-24 The Priory Queensway • **BIRMINGHAM** B4 6BS
Worldwide Travel: **0121-236 1234**
48 Corn Street • **BRISTOL** BS1 1HQ
Worldwide Travel: **0117-929 9000**
254-284 Sauchiehall Street • **GLASGOW** G2 3EH
Worldwide Travel: **0141-353 2224**
58 Deansgate • **MANCHESTER** M3 2FF
Worldwide Travel: **0161-839 6969**
First & Business Class: **0161-839 3434**

All our travel centres are open Mon-Sat 9-6pm • Thurs 9-7pm • Sun 10-6pm

Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards

... people think the world of us!

AUSTRALIA
FROM **£499** RETURN

HIGH SEASON, LOW PRICES.
NOVEMBER '97-MARCH '98.

Regular flights from London Gatwick and Manchester to: Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

SPECIAL OFFER
★ Free flights within Australia.
★ Pre-bookable seats
on bookings made before 30 April

NEW London City Shop
17 Blomfield Street, EC2

AUSTRAVEL
50 Conduit Street, London W1.
Offers subject to availability. Taxes excluded. ABTA C1994. ATOL 4022.Allstuk Ltd 1953.

LONDON West End	0171 734 7755
LONDON City	0171 588 1515
LONDON Knightsbridge	0171 838 1011
BOURNEMOUTH	01202 311488
BRISTOL	0117 927 7425
LEEDS	0113 244 8880
MANCHESTER	0161 832 2445

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd. 0171-730 2201. ABTA 26703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

MILAN
OR
VERONA
3,7,10,14,17 or
21 May
FLIGHT ONLY
£99
RETURN
or 24,28,31 May
£129
To book, call now on:
0990 502 572
Open Mon-Fri 8.30-8.00,
Sat-Sun 9.00-5.00
or see your local travel agent.

THOMSON
Thomson Tour Operations
ABTA V5126, ATOL 2524.
Prices and availability correct at time of printing.

CORAL HOLIDAYS
CHEAPEST PRICES WORLDWIDE

TEL AVIV	[illegible]
NEW YORK	[illegible]
TORONTO	[illegible]
ATLANTA	[illegible]
LOS ANGELES	[illegible]
DUBAI	[illegible]
BANGKOK	[illegible]
JO'BURG	[illegible]
KUALA LUMPUR	[illegible]
SIGNAPORE	[illegible]
SYDNEY	[illegible]
JAKARTA	[illegible]
TOKYO	[illegible]

Fares are seasonal plus tax

0800 214642
0800 214643

TRAVEL INSURANCE
£10 OFF every policy sold
Offer valid until 30/04/97. One application per trip. Applies only to policies costing £10 or more.
01243 787835
CLUB DIRECT
Make Get It Covered!

Australia
New Zealand
AUSTRALIA FARES FROM **£500** RETURN Per Person Based on 2 travelling.
NEW ZEALAND and/or Australia FARES FROM **£653** RETURN
• Plus tax • Plus tax dept 15 Apr - 15 Jun
• Best stopover choice – Far East, USA & more.
• Air, rail & coach passes.
01420-88724 • 0171-437 5555 • 0171-287 5555

USA Canada
USA FARES FROM **£185** RETURN
CANADA FARES FROM **£270** RETURN
• Plus tax
• Tailor-Made Self-Drive packages
• Any city, state, destination
• Coach Tours
Plus special fares with British Airways and United Airlines
Pop in and see us today, centrally located in Piccadilly Circus
01420-88380 or 0171-287 5559

Far East
✦ HONG KONG ✦
✦ THAILAND ✦ BALI ✦
✦ MALAYSIA ✦
✦ BANGKOK ✦
✦ SINGAPORE ✦
✦ INDIA ✦
FAR EAST FARES FROM **£362** RETURN
HOLIDAYS FROM £496pp
We are tailor-made specialists and can arrange flights, accommodation and tours.
01420-80828 or 0171-287 5558

WHY WE'RE THE BEST

'TRAVELBAG PLUS' A unique range of added benefits to make your journey easier
TOUR CHOICE Fantastic tour and sightseeing options
LOWEST FARES Best choice – top-quality scheduled airlines
ACCOMMODATION All the options, from budget to the most luxurious
SPECIALIST CONSULTANTS Tailored itineraries to your exact wishes
WE FIX IT ALL Car and campervan hire, coach tours and hotels

TRAVELBAG
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED QANTAS AGENT
OPEN 7 DAYS
12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX
373-375 The Strand, London WC2R 0JF
FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-287 4522 or 0171-497 2923
All fares subject to availability. Restrictions apply, ask for details.

AMERICANA BEST OFFERS!

Best Premium Class Offers from Americana!!!

Separate Premium Class check in • Separate Premium Class cabin • Most comfortable seat in the world with 38" leg room, lay-out and adjustable headrest • Award winning TV Screens featuring up to 12 channels of entertainment

	Return from		Return from
NEW YORK	£799	GRAND CAYMAN	£ 998
NEWARK	£799	LAS VEGAS	£1098
MIAMI	£799	NASSAU	£ 899
ORLANDO	£799	SAN DIEGO	£1098
BOSTON	£799	SARASOTA	£ 899
SAN FRANCISCO	£998	WEST PALM BEACH	£ 899
LOS ANGELES	£998	WASHINGTON	£ 799
TAMPA	£899	JO'BURG	£ 998
FT.LAUDERDALE	£899	HONG KONG	£1098
FT.MYERS	£899	TOKYO	£1198
CANCUN	£999	PALM SPRINGS	£ 998

PREMIUM CLASS OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO PURCHASE OF BUDGET CAR RENTAL OR HOTELS SAVING YOU UP TO 50% ON GROUND ARRANGEMENTS, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND AMERICANA TERMS AND BOOKING CONDITIONS.

GO PREMIUM CLASS!!! 0171 636 3055

AMERICANA BEST WORLD BUSINESS CLASS OFFERS
UP TO 50% OFF IN UNIQUE ★ BUSINESS CLASS

ACAPULCO	[illegible]	FT.LAUDERDALE	[illegible]	NEW YORK	[illegible]
ADELAIDE	[illegible]	FT. MYERS	[illegible]	NEW YORK 1st CLASS	[illegible]
ANTIGUA	[illegible]	G. CAYMAN	[illegible]	ORLANDO	[illegible]
ATLANTA	[illegible]	GRENADA	[illegible]	PERTH	[illegible]
AUCKLAND	[illegible]	HONG KONG	[illegible]	PHILADELPHIA	[illegible]
BALTIMORE	[illegible]	HONOLULU	[illegible]	PHOENIX	[illegible]
BANGKOK	[illegible]	HOUSTON	[illegible]	PITTSBURG	[illegible]
BARBADOS	[illegible]	JAKARTA	[illegible]	RALEIGH DURHAM	[illegible]
BEIJING	[illegible]	JO'BURG	[illegible]	RIO DE JANEIRO	[illegible]
BERMUDA	[illegible]	KATHMANDU	[illegible]	SAN FRANCISCO	[illegible]
BOMBAY	[illegible]	KINGSTON	[illegible]	SALT LAKE CITY	[illegible]
BOSTON	[illegible]	KUALA LUMPUR	[illegible]	SAN JUAN	[illegible]
BRISBANE	[illegible]	LAGOS	[illegible]	SARASOTA	[illegible]
CALGARY	[illegible]	LAS VEGAS	[illegible]	SEATTLE	[illegible]
CAIRNS	[illegible]	LOS ANGELES	[illegible]	ST. LOUIS	[illegible]
CALCUTTA	[illegible]	MANILA	[illegible]	ST. LUCIA	[illegible]
CAPE TOWN	[illegible]	MELBOURNE	[illegible]	SINGAPORE	[illegible]
CHICAGO	[illegible]	MEXICO CITY	[illegible]	SYDNEY	[illegible]
DALLAS	[illegible]	MIAMI	[illegible]	TAMPA	[illegible]
DARWIN	[illegible]	MINNEAPOLIS	[illegible]	TOBAGO	[illegible]
DELHI	[illegible]	MONTEGO BAY	[illegible]	TOKYO	[illegible]
DENVER	[illegible]	MONTREAL	[illegible]	TORONTO	[illegible]
DETROIT	[illegible]	NAIROBI	[illegible]	VANCOUVER	[illegible]
DHAKA	[illegible]	NASSAU	[illegible]	WASHINGTON	[illegible]
DUBAI	[illegible]	NEW ORLEANS	[illegible]	WEST PALM BEACH	[illegible]
DURBAN	[illegible]			YANGON	[illegible]

All USA Business Class fares are based on Business Class Transatlantic flights and Economy Internal flights. Upgrade supplements to First Class are Available.

GO AMERICANA BUSINESS CLASS 0171 637 4107

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

FLY FIRST • BUSINESS • PREMIUM • ECONOMY CLASS TO OVER 200 DESTINATIONS AND SAVE UP TO 50% ON AMERICANA'S FAVOURITE AIRLINES, HOTELS AND CAR RENTALS!!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

BOOK YOUR VACATIONS WITH AMERICANA!!! 0171 637 7853

Specialists in Tailor-made vacations to the USA ★ CANADA ★ MEXICO ★ HAWAII CARIBBEAN ★ EUROPE ★ MIDDLE EAST ★ AFRICA ★ ORIENT ★ AUSTRALASIA

Americana Vacations offers you a whole host of sensational fares to over 250 cities and resorts around the globe whether you are travelling on business or pleasure, we can arrange your Hotels, Car Hire and Insurance requirements at our outstanding value for money rates saving yourself hundreds of pounds.

All fares listed are return from London (regional fares may vary)
Americana Vacations Plc ABTA D5585 acting as agents for ATOL

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

AMERICANA VACATIONS PLC 11 Little Portland St, London W1N 5DF

OPEN 7 DAYS ABTA D5585

PREMIUM CLASS OFFERS: 0171 636 3055
TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPEAN OFFERS: 0171 637 7853
LONG HAUL OFFERS: 0171 637 8485
BUSINESS AND FIRST CLASS OFFERS: 0171 637 4107
FACSIMILE: 0171 436 4848

★ HONG KONG ★ SINGAPORE ★ BALI ★ FLORIDA ★ HAWAII ★ VIRGIN ISLANDS ★ EGYPT ★ TURKEY ★ FRANCE ★ SPAIN ★ ITALY ★ GERMANY ★ SOUTH AMERICA ★ CENTRAL AMERICA ★ CAYMAN ISLANDS ★ AUSTRALIA ★ NEW ZEALAND ★ INDONESIA ★ MAURITIUS ★ BAHAMAS ★ BERMUDA ★ CARIBBEAN ★ MEXICO ★ NAIROBI ★ SOUTH AFRICA ★ THAILAND ★

---

skytrekker tickets ...available at all Campus Travel branches.

touch with **Campus** travel

We specialise in low cost travel for students and young people providing support in over 150 offices throughout the world

	£ O/W	£ RTN
AMSTERDAM	fr. 43	65
AUSTRALIA	323	599
BANGKOK	196	355
BOGOTA	262	451
BOMBAY/DELHI	236	359
BUDAPEST	83	161
CARACAS	250	419
DUBLIN	30	56
HONG KONG	279	466
ISTANBUL	113	157
JO'BURG	257	365
L.A./SAN FRAN.	145	249
LISBON	82	164
MILAN	68	135
NAIROBI	165	311
NEW YORK	115	175
NICE	67	132
PARIS/BRUSSELS (Eurostar)	fr. 49	
PRAGUE	68	129
SINGAPORE	221	399
TORONTO/MONTREAL	147	284
WARSAW	86	171
ZURICH	74	147

"Airfares exclude tax"

TELEPHONE BOOKINGS
LONDON - OPEN 7 DAYS

WORLDWIDE	0171 730 8111
EUROPE	0171 730 3402
NORTH AMERICA	0171 730 2101
BRISTOL	0117 929 2494
OXFORD	01865 242 067
EDINBURGH	0131 668 3303
MANCHESTER	0161 273 1721

44 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE AND OPEN SUNDAYS 10.00-15.00 AT 52 GROSVENOR GARDENS Victoria ⊖, LONDON SW1W 0AG

NOW AVAILABLE
TRAVEL INSURANCE
Special rates for students... up to two years coverage!

'ROUND THE WORLD
LONDON / BANGKOK / PERTH / surface / SYDNEY / LOS ANGELES / LONDON FROM £659

We provide a full range of services for youth and student travellers, including air/train/bus passes, low cost accommodation, car hire, ID cards, adventure tours...

www.campustravel.co.uk

★ USA AND CANADA

★New York	from £179	Toronto	from £175
★Baltimore	from £200	Montreal	from £184
★Boston	from £222	Calgary	from £245
★Chicago	from £222	Vancouver	from £245
★Philadelphia	from £225		
★Washington	from £225		
★Orlando	from £231		
★Miami	from £263		
★Seattle	from £263		
★San Francisco	from £263		
★Los Angeles	from £263		
★Dallas	from £268		

★★ SPECIAL OFFER ★★
BOSTON £222

Eclipse DIRECT

0990 329 326

Lines Open: Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm.
All fares are low season return flights, subject to availability and exclude airport taxes. First Choice Holidays & Flights Ltd. ABTA V1540 ATOL 230 IATA.

Direct Travel Insurance

Worldwide Annual Multi-Trip
UNLIMITED SKI - UNLIMITED TRIPS
Comprehensive family cover
£99 excl. IPT

Quality insurance from General Accident

UK's best single trip rates from
EUR. £6.38
USA £14.63
SKI £11.25

01903 893333 For Instant Cover or Quotation 9am - 9pm Seven Days a week

---

Visit both
Australia & New Zealand
fr **£661**
& enjoy a stop over in Hong Kong or Bali
Annual Multi Trip Insurance, fr £45 inc. tax

Prices from						Prices from	
Boston	£189					Nairobi	£269
New York	£189					Bangkok	£369
Florida	£215					Singapore	£410
California	£249					Hong Kong	£480
Chicago	£222	Las Vegas	£249	Jo'burg	£329	India	£325
Dallas	£230	Toronto	£215	Cape Town	£329	Paris	£65

FLIGHTBOOKERS
QANTAS appointed agent
travelling freestyle

Worldwide 0171 757 2444
Americas & Europe 0171 757 2000
Australia & NZ 0171 757 2468
First & Business Class 0171 757 2500

Best Value:-Air Fares-Car Hire-Hotels-Insurance
All fares are return flights, subject to availability, seasonal & regional supplements, c.c. surcharges & taxes where applicable

ATOL 2562 IATA
Also at Gatwick **01293 568 300** Open 7 days 7am-10pm
And GLASGOW **0141 204 1919**
ABTA D0806/V8800

GUARANTEED LOWEST AIRFARES ON SCHEDULED AIRLINES
OPEN 7 DAYS

WORLDWIDE JOURNEYS PLC

Americas 0171 388 2000		Worldwide 0171 388 6000		Caribbean 0171 388 9292			
NEW YORK	fr £199	BANGKOK	fr £319	GRENADA	30/4	2wks	£229
WASHINGTON	199	CAPE TOWN	449	ANTIGUA	30/4	2wks	£229
BOSTON	199	DELHI/BOMBAY	299	MO'BAY	28/4	2wks	£199
CALIFORNIA	249	DUBAI	289	TOBAGO	28/4	3wks	£279
CHICAGO	235	HONG KONG	449	ST. LUCIA	1/5	1/3wks	£249
DALLAS	235	JO'BURG	299	BARBADOS	5/5	2/3wks	£229
LAS VEGAS	249	K.LUMPUR	399	MO'BAY	5/5	1/2wks	£229
DENVER	249	MAURITIUS	589	ANTIGUA	5/5	1/2wks	£249
MIAMI	235	NAIROBI	299	GRENADA	7/5	1wk	£249
TAMPA	235	SINGAPORE	399	BARBADOS	5/5	1/2wks	£249
TORONTO	159	SYDNEY	579	ANTIGUA	7/5	1wk	£249
VANCOUVER	259	TOKYO	459	GRENADA	7/5	1wk	£239
CALGARY	259	BUENOS AIRES	455	OTHER DATES ON LONG STAYS AVAILABLE			

GATWICK-ORLANDO 2/5 £149 +£35 tax

internet-http://www.btwebworld.com/journeys
OPEN MON-FRI 9am-7pm, SAT 9am-4pm ABTA F2078 ATOL 3337 IATA

EURO CITY BREAKS
0171 388 0888

AMSTERDAM	3★	£149	VIENNA	3★	£245
LISBON	3★	£199	ROME	3★	£249
BARCELONA	3★	£175	VENICE	2★	£259
MADRID	2★	£159	DUBLIN	3★	£179
BUDAPEST	3★	£199	ATHENS	3★	£235

EURO STAR BREAKS
PARIS 2★ Hotel £129.00
Free Two Day Metro Pass
BRUSSELS 3★ Hotel £125.00

CANADIAN Affair

TORONTO	£169
MONTREAL	£189
HALIFAX	£219
VANCOUVER	£199
CALGARY	£229
OTTAWA	£219
WINNIPEG	£259
SPECIALS	
TORONTO	£89
MONTREAL	£149

All are lowest available return fares. Canadian Affair ATOL 3971
0171 385 4400
0161 832 4000
SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND AIRPORT TAX

PLATINUM TRAVEL

ADVENTURE TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

— CURRENT BEST BUYS —
(*excl taxes)

	O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN
SYDNEY	£310	£499	SINGAPORE	£240	£395	HARARE	£310	£344
CAIRNS	£342	£567	HONG KONG	£280	£460	JO'BURG	£265	£344
PERTH	£340	£555	JAKARTA	£245	£429	CAPE TOWN	£379	£344
AUCKLAND	£375	£580	BALI	£269	£429	MEXICO CITY	£275	£289
DELHI	£190	£310	SAIGON	£280	£430	RIO DE JANEIRO	£289	£455
BOMBAY	£190	£310	CAIRO	£159	£210	TORONTO	£159	£230
MADRAS	£266	£390	BEIJING	£270	£344	NEW YORK	£119	£169
KATHMANDU	£250	£395	DUBAI	£189	£289	BOSTON	£165	£189
COLOMBO	£245	£377	TOKYO	£310	£470	LOS ANGELES	£219	£279
BANGKOK	£220	£345	NAIROBI	£219	£279	MARRAKECH		£210

Special Offer
Australia
£499 Return
Depart any time between 26/4 - 30/6
*based on 2 people travelling together

Please call for our NEW 1997 Brochure on Escorted Tours in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, China & Cambodia.

Whether you are holidaying or visiting home, would like to go straight or with a break, at Platinum Travel we offer more flights via more destinations, at all the right prices to suit your requirements.

LONG HAUL: **0171 937 5122** TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPE: **0171 937 2654**

52 EARLS COURT ROAD, KENSINGTON, LONDON W8 6EJ
OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-6PM, SATURDAY 10AM-2PM
IATA

Flavours of **Italy**

Rome 2-5 MAY **£269** RETURN
3 nights B/B 3 star
Rome 23-26 MAY **£279** RETURN
3 nights B/B 3 star
Sorrento £399
[illegible]
0171 629 7772
Nouvelles Frontieres - IATA - ATOL 2069

Air Vacations

NEW YORK BUSINESS CLASS £560 RETURN ALL SEASONS

OVER 200 DIFFERENT USA DESTINATIONS, FLYDRIVE, SPECIAL WEEKEND BREAKS, HOTELS fr. £14pp BUSINESS & FIRST CLASS FLIGHTS
CALL FOR OUR 1997 BROCHURE

NEW YORK	£189	ORLANDO	£230
BOSTON	£200	MIAMI	£198
CHICAGO	£230	LOS ANGELES	£250
ATLANTA	£235	S.FRANCISCO	£250
DALLAS	£230	WASHINGTON	£225

CARIBBEAN SPECIALS

ANTIGUA	£480	KINGSTON	£412
BRIDGETOWN	£480	MONTEGO BAY	£412

All fares are low season return flights
0171 828 1137 IATA

U S A

London Tourist Centre
LOW COST FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE
5% OFF ALL FLIGHTS BOOKED
Current Specials

BANGKOK	Fr £329	MANILA	Fr £449
AUCKLAND	£589	NAIROBI	£339
DELHI	£309	NEW YORK	£189
HONG KONG	£449	SINGAPORE	£419
JO'BURG	£369	SYDNEY	£589

Many Other Destinations Avail Please Call
Big Discounts on First/Business Avail
0171 262 2009
PART OF MORESAND GROUP

BARGAIN FLIGHTS
Europe & Worldwide

Alicante	fr £59	Istanbul	fr £139
Barcelona	£89	Orlando	£149
Faro	£79	Tenerife	£99
Malaga	£89	Venice	£99

Great rates for holiday car hire
01276 686808
SUNDIAL TRAVEL ABTA E0920
Retail Agents for ATOL holders

AIRLINE NETWORK

NEW YORK	fr £194	SOUTH AFRICA	fr £329
WASHINGTON	£195	BEIJING	£337
BOSTON	£195	CALGARY	£338
TORONTO	£216	BANGKOK	£368
FLORIDA	£216	CARACAS	£387
HALIFAX	£216	SINGAPORE	£399
ATLANTA	£220	BALI	£409
CHICAGO	£226	MANILA	£423
TEXAS	£231	HAWAII	£425
MONTREAL	£236	RIO	£427
DENVER	£251	SEOUL	£432
LAS VEGAS	£251	KUALA LUMPUR	£453
ARIZONA	£251	BUENOS AIRES	£458
CALIFORNIA	£251	HONG KONG	£478
SEATTLE	£256	VIETNAM	£488
DETROIT	£265	TOKYO	£498
MEXICO CITY	£276	SYDNEY	£569
DUBAI	£279	CAIRNS	£569
VANCOUVER	£286	MELBOURNE	£578
INDIA	£328	PERTH	£582
HARARE	£329	NEW ZEALAND	£595

USA & WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS **017 72 72 72 72**
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND **01772 727 727**
BUSINESS & FIRST CLASS **01772 727 747**
ROUND THE WORLD **01772 727 222**
HOTELS & TAILORMADE **01772 727 757**
Internet Fares and Bookings: www.alnet.co.uk
The National Sales Centre for over 100 leading scheduled airlines, with 800,000 discount fares to 1,000 destinations.
OPEN 8am-9pm 7 days a week
SEE ITV Teletext P.275
[illegible]

CHEAPEST FLIGHTS
0121 698 9898
0161 476 4764
SUNSHARE VACATIONS

---

benz
NEW YORK £180
HONG KONG £440

AMSTERDAM	Fr £69	JO'BURG	£340
DUBAI	£280	L.ANGELES	£280
DELHI	£305	MADRID	£99
FRANKFURT	£99	MOSCOW	£245
BANGKOK	£320	NAIROBI	£320
JAKARTA	£435	ORLANDO	£189
JAMAICA	£279	MANILA	£440

LOW SEASON FARES
0171 439 4181
ABTA E3273 ATOL 3446

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL INSURANCE
SAVE ON ANNUAL, SINGLE TRIP, LONG STAY, SKI & CAR HIRE LIABILITY TOP-UP
01732 773366

HOLIDAYS
ALGARVE Fr. **£109**
CANARIES Fr. **£159**
IBIZA Fr. **£129**
TRAVEL PLUS
0171 891 2900

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

Alicante	fr £69	U.S.A.	£165
Faro	£59	Australia	£525
Canaries	£95	Israel	£159
Malaga	£65	Malta	£99
Greece	£125	Cyprus	£109
Palma	£95	Turkey	£109

Retail agents for ATOL holders
01273 700737

TRAVEL SEARCH FLIGHTS & CARS

Alicante	£89	Greece	£99
Balearics	£89	Italy	£99
Canaries	£99	Malaga	£89
Cyprus	£129	New York	£179
Faro	£89	Orlando	£119

★ Florida 1/2 Centre fly-drive holidays fr £249
★ Disney World Passes fr £115
★ Florida Rentals fr £6 pppd
★ New York City Breaks fr £299
WORLDWIDE CAR HIRE fr. £69
Child discounts + Insurance special offers.

0181 882 9992
ABTA E5619 ACCESS/VISA/DELTA/SWITCH OPEN TODAY

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

From
£39

Dusseldorf MONCHENGLADBACH	from £39	HURRY OFFER CLOSES IN 5 DAYS!
Munich	from £39	
Copenhagen	from £39	
Barcelona	from £39	
Madrid	from £39	
Rome	from £49	

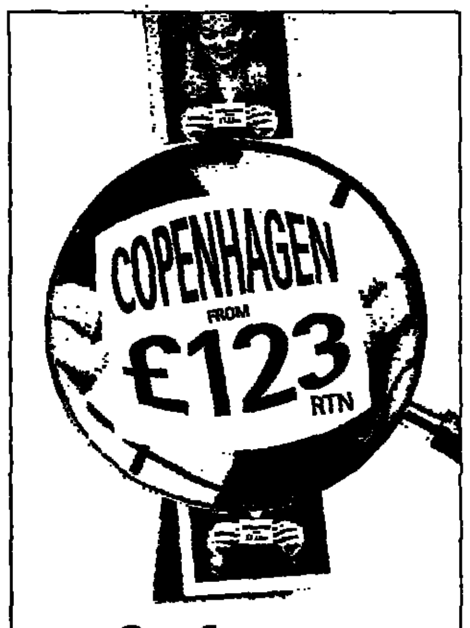
Midweek Offer only valid on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
Bookings must be made by 30th April 1997.
Travel must be completed by 12th June 1997.
BUT HURRY! There is limited availability.
For details of this offer or our other daily scheduled flights from London Luton:

Call **0541 500 300**

Debonair Eurostyle Vacations to Rome brochure now available Call 01293 826006

debonair

[illegible]



COPENHAGEN FROM £123 RTN

Our fares are ridiculously small.

AMSTERDAM from	£69 return
BELFAST from	£65 return
BERGEN from	£145 return
BRUSSELS from	£76 return
DUBLIN from	£69 return
EDINBURGH from	£62 return
FRANKFURT from	£128 return
GLASGOW from	£62 return
GOTHENBURG from	£205 return
NICE from	£149 return
OSLO from	£163 return
PALMA from	£180 return
PARIS from	£79 return
PRAGUE from	£164 return
ZURICH from	£99 return

Return fares from London Heathrow.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345 554554

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

Special fares available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Passenger taxes will apply. Special fares are also available from East Midlands, Leeds Bradford, Teesside, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

CITY BREAKS

ST. PETERSBURG City breaks brochure INTERCHANGE 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

AIRPORT PARKING

HEATHROW £4.95 per day (no min stay). Free parking after 14 days. Max charge £49.30. (Up to 100 days) Secure Parking Ltd 0181 813 8130.

CHECK-IN

FLIGHT CENTRE
WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS
ACCESS VISA WELCOME
DISCOUNTED INSURANCE
ATOL 3712
0181 669 8607

FARESAVERS

MALAGA	£59	GREECE	fr £69
ALICANTE	£59	TURKEY	£109
FARO	£59	ISRAEL	£109
TENERIFE	£69	MALTA	£79
LAS PALMAS	£69	CYPRUS	£119
LANZAROTE	£69	ITALY	£89
BALEARICS	£59	CARIBBEAN	£189

ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS
ALSO CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
01476 592095

JETLINE
Discounted fares to all destinations

SPAIN	fr 59	USA	fr 169
PORTUGAL	79	CARIBBEAN	209
ISRAEL	99	S. AFRICA	339
GREECE	99	CANADA	179
TURKEY	99	INDIA	299
CYPRUS	149	FAR EAST	299
ARABIA	259	AUSTRALIA	499

Best quotes on Car Hire and Insurance
0171 360 1111
ABTA F0354 OPEN 7 DAYS ATOL 2479

FLIGHTSEATS
Inexpensive Car Hire Available
Retail agents for ATOL holders. ABTA C9307
ABTA members for 18 years

Alicante	£59	Dalaman	£89
Malaga	£59	Malta	£89
Faro	£59	Greece & Isles	£89
Palma	£59		
Mahon/Ibiza	£69	Geneva	£89
Tenerife	£79	Israel	£129
Lanzarote	£79	Orlando	£169
Funchal	£89	Canada	£229

0990 239904

CAPITAL FLIGHTS
Open Daily till late

Malaga	fr £59	Turkey	£99
Alicante	£59	Cyprus	£99
Faro	£69	Malta	£95
Canaries	£99	Orlando	£189
Palma	£59	New York	£169
Greece	£129	Australia	£555

World fares available at discount.
Car hire, Hotels and Insurance
0171 209 4000.
ABTA E6560 Retail agents for ATOL holders

MONUMENT TRAVEL

Spain fr	£59	Malta	£89
Canaries	£79	U.S.A.	£169
Greece	£99	Canada	£199
Portugal	£89	Caribbean	£209
Turkey	£99	Australia	£499

01476 404747
Retail agent for ATOL holders
ABTA W0514

AIRLINK
Worldwide
Discount fares to all destinations
Prices from

ALICANTE	59	ISRAEL	99
MALAGA	59	TUNISIA	129
FARO	59	CYPRUS	149
IBIZA	69	ORLANDO	149
MAHON	69	CANADA	169
TENERIFE	79	SINGAPORE	199
LANZAROTE	79	HONG KONG	299
GREECE	69	S.AFRICA	299
TURKEY	69	AUSTRALIA	399

Car Hire Insurance & Accommodation
0171-713-7770

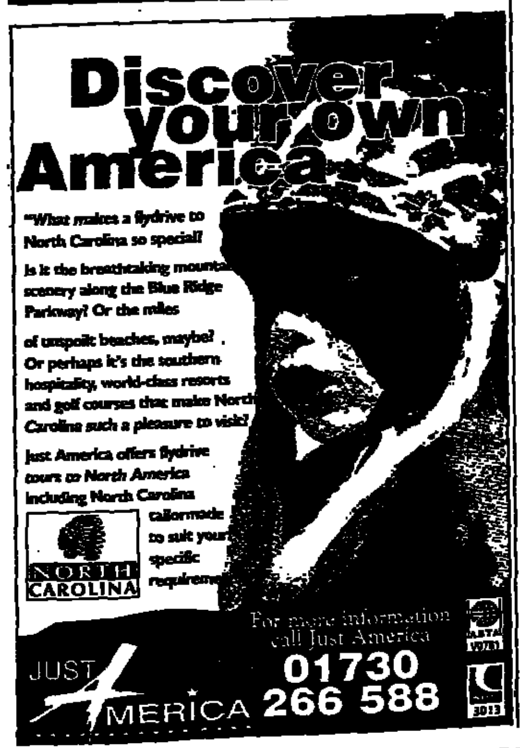
ICARUS FLIGHTS
Booking Summer 1997 Now
01476 514666
ICARUS TRAVEL LTD
RETAIL AGENT FOR ATOL HOLDERS ATOL 4066

FLIGHT PRICES From	
MALAGA	59
ALICANTE	59
FARO	65
BALEARICS	65
CANARIES	69
GREECE	79
MALTA	89
TURKEY	89
ITALY	99
CARIB'N	199

Many other Destinations available also car hire/insurance.

DISCOVER THE SPLENDOUR OF
THAILAND
BANGKOK AND PATTAYA BEACH RESORT
10 days from £499.00
Enjoy the exciting City of Bangkok, with its majestic temples, the hustle & bustle of its markets and its culinary delights. Relax on the white palm-fringed beaches of Pattaya, from as little as
Thai £499.00
Price includes transfers, hotels and Thai Airways International flights.
Phone NOW for special offers to:
Phuket, Koh Samui, Chiang Mai, Hua Hin, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Kathmandu, Rangoon
0171 499 0955 FIVE STAR GROUP PLC
FIVE STAR GROUP PLC, 3 Hanover Square, London W1R 9RD

London - Hong Kong - Australia (incl 2 FREE flights in Australia) - New Zealand - London £755
• HOTELS • TOURS • CAR & CAMPER HIRE
• CRUISES, ISLANDS, OUTBACK & REEF TRIPS
BRIDGE THE WORLD
☎0171 734 7447
CALL NOW FOR OUR OUTSTANDING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND BROCHURE
4 Regent Place, Regent Street, London W1R 6BH
Fax 0171 734 6485
FOR AFRICA & ASIA ENQUIRIES ☎ 0171 911 0900



"What makes a flydrive to North Carolina so special?

Is it the breathtaking mountain scenery along the Blue Ridge Parkway? Or the miles of unspoilt beaches, maybe? Or perhaps it's the southern hospitality, world-class resorts and golf courses that make North Carolina such a pleasure to visit?

Just America offers flydrive tours to North America including North Carolina tailormade to suit your specific requirements.

NORTH CAROLINA

For more information call Just America
01730 266 588
JUST AMERICA

AIRPORT PARKING

FLYING from Gatwick? Park on-airport at NCP Flightpath Long Term car parks. Book & save up to 24%. 8 days £33.60, 15 days £63.00 & you will receive a commission free currency voucher & 20 % off Green Flag Membership. Both terminals. 24 hrs. Bookings: 0800 128 128. M-F 9am-8pm, Sat/Sun 9am-5pm. Prices valid to 31/3/98.

CITY BREAKS

EURO BREAK
100 cities from 20 UK airports
City Breaks
Now with lower prices
from 1 April - 31 December
0181 7807700
Inghams

FRANCE & ITALY SPECIALS

FRANCE	ITALY
FLTS fr £83	FLTS fr £115rtn
City Breaks fr £124	City Breaks fr £194rtn
Car Hire 3 days fr £87	Car Hire 3 days fr £93
7 days fr £173	7 days fr £185

Many City Breaks & Car Hire available
European 1997 Brochure out NOW!
Please call
LUPUS TRAVEL LTD.
0171 306 3000
OR
01892 553500

AFRICA

GDN Route Cape Coast Houses to rent. Average weekly £600, sleeps 4/8, T/F SA 0027 4455 32561 after 7pm

GOLFING tours in South Africa. Our 14 day escorted tour takes in some of the finest golf courses in the world from the Cape to Sun City. Enjoy luxury lodges, sublime scenery and game-viewing in the heart of the bush. Cedarberg Southern Africa Travel - Broch 0181 941 1717 ABTA V7598 ATOL 3748

AFRICA TRAVEL CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE, KENYA, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, TANZANIA
FLIGHTS, SAFARIS, HOTELS, LODGES, COUNTRY HOUSES, CAR HIRE
Tailormade to suit your needs.
Call the experts for brochure and info.
0171 388 6211
africatravel @ easynet.co.uk

TAILORMADE SAFARIS
ZIMBABWE BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA ZAMBIA KENYA TANZANIA & S AFRICA
Luxurious remote lodges. Walking, canoeing, riding and vehicle safaris with the very best guides. Superb wildlife. Adventure with comfort. Call us to create your ideal safari.
Tel: (01604) 28979 Fax:30879
66 Palmerston Rd Northampton, NN1 5EX
AFRICA EXCLUSIVE

EASTERN EUROPE

RUSSIA Independent travel packages INTERCHANGE 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS St. James. Pvt bch hse & hse with pool. Close golf, restrnts/shops. 01777 706292

BARBADOS Superb 1 bedroom apartment, poolside bar and rest. W coast. 01302 530462

STUNNING Cabal Interchange. Colour brochure. Tel 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

TOBAGO Plantation house, 4 bed 3 bath, private pool, maid, gardener, close to facilities and beaches. 01229 716721/568.

Summer in Barbados
Special offers include:
The Royal Pavillion~
Prices from 1368p.p for 14 nights
Glitter Bay~
Prices from 1250p.p for 14 nights
Simply CARIBBEAN
For further information and more special offers call
01423 526877
ABTA V018X

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Help the Aged Insurance services
Value-for-Money Travel Insurance for the Over 50s
→ Annual or Trip Cover →
→ No increased premiums for the older traveller →
FREEPHONE 0800 41 31 80
Open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm Sat 9am-4pm
please quote reference CV
Help the Aged (Registered Charity) benefits financially from each policy sold. Insurances arranged by Sedgwick Affinity Group Services, an insurance broker, and underwritten by Guardian Insurance.

CORSICA

CORSICAN PLACES We specialise in Corsica. Lovely villas with pool, cottages by the sea, medieval village houses, carefully selected hotels. Very friendly personal service. ATOL 2647 AITO Tel 01424 460046

BALEARICS

MENORCA Es Castell large family villa, 6 dble beds, 4 baths, pool, grdn, harbour views. Ideal 2 familys. Not Avail 4 July-29 Aug. Brochure 0181 994 3860.

MALLORCA lovely hillside house, super sea view, fully equiped, 4 dbl/4 bath, sun terrace-gdn, sep pool, cls sandy bay. £700-£2000 pw. Tel: 0171 838 1062.

MENORCA Mahon Harbour, well furnished 3 beds, 2 baths, private pool, peaceful area with unbeatable harbour views. From £675pw. 0181 946 5813

MENORCA. Attractive villas / farmhouses with private pools, apts & hotels across the island. Open seven days. Club Menorca Holidays (01903) 234024 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X

MENORCA Binibeca Villa & Annexe slps 10 close to sandy bay pool beau gdn all amenities. Tel/Fax 01737 832574

MENORCA Small villa on complex o'looking golf course. Slps 4. Avail 15 Aug for 2 weeks. £350pw. 01420 538138.

VILLAS/APTS with pools in glorious countryside. Carefree Spain 01293 527700.

PUERTO POLLENSA and Cala San Vicente, Majorca. Beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apartments & hotels. Open seven days. Club Pollensa Holidays (01903) 230128 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X.

FRANCE

ALPS/CHAMONIX Large apt slps 4/7, 2 bdrms central location good views Tel:0181 674 4959

ALPS Haute Savoie. Walking, biking, river rafting etc or just relaxing, child friendly, 2 adjoining apts, slps 2-8. From £250 pw. Tel: 0171 738 2804

FAMILY HOLIDAYS
ACTIVITIES for all in the French Alps
Brochure Line
01242 240 310
ATOL 1403
VFB Holidays (T) Cheltenham GL50 3FB

Short sea crossings to France from £49
Five day return for car and up to five passengers
Late availability crossings to Belgium always available
0990 706050 ferryshop
Credit cards only Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Allez France
Villas & Cottages
Coast or Country
Many with pools
Best Value Luxury
Mobile Homes
On 4-Star Sites
FROM £59
MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997
(01903) 748126
ABTA AITO

FRANCE

ANNECY Lakeside, chalets/apts, some with pool. Tel: 01773 853300 Fx 01773 853311.

A PROVENCAL Tour. 6 day guided tours, discovery the Real Provence. 7 nights, Full board from £480. Broch. 00 33 490744686

ARDECHE riverside cottage, sleeps 4/5, swimming, riding, etc. Tel: 01483 420453

AVAILBLE July/August Catalan village house sleeps 10 4thr Med £550pw. 01494 488197

CALVADOS Comfortable rural retreat, slps 8, idyllic spot, stunning views. 01424 773847

AVEYRON/TARN Large stone hse, sleeps 7, own pool, beautiful views. Nr Cordes, Albi, Toulouse. Tel: 0121 705 0923, fax 0121 709 0051.

BRITTANY North Coast rustic house sleeps 4 May to June £240 pw Tel: 01273 507336.

CANNES Small penthouse, pool, parking, 1 dble bed + 2 singles, fitted kit. Panoramic sea views, beach 12 mins walk. £325pw. May-Oct. 0181 742 3015

FRANCE
A superior choice of traditional French holiday properties.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143681 QUOTE REF: F424
Vacances en Campagne

Holiday Homes & Gîtes de France Cottages
FRANCE NORD
Specialists in
Pas-de-Calais
Picardy
Loire Valley
Normandy
Brittany
Paris - Ile de France
0121 353 6457

SELF-CATERING
Character COTTAGES in France
Brochure Line
01242 240 310
ATOL 1403
VFB Holidays (T) Cheltenham GL50 3FB

CANNES Lux flt, superb seaview, lge sunny terr, pool, pvt pkg. fr £270pw. 0115 921 3188.

CHALET/HOTEL nr Morzine. Excellent food, bar, outdoor s/pool, sauna, tennis, riding, paragliding, rafting, mountain biking, golf nearby. £200pw full pension inc wine with meals 0033 4507 57231.

CHARENTE / Vienne. Character cottage in 2 acres, sleeps 5 + cot. Most dates. £150 - £350 pw. Tel/fax 01302 760730.

CHARENTE nr beach Coast hse slps 6 avail Fr May to Sept 0033 2416 83686 after 8pm

CORDES-TARN Stone house, pool. Avail May 31-June 14, June 28-July 12. Tel: 0171 223 2467.

COTE D'AZUR Nr Val Bonne. Large Provencal villa (slps 12+). Extensive secluded gdns, lge pool. Maid, available July. FF 24,000pw. 01189 402620

COTE D'AZUR Spacious 3 beds, 2 baths flat, 15 July-31 Aug. o'looking olive grove. Pool & tennis avail. 01462 432291.

CYCLING & Walking in undiscovered France. Great food, friendly hotels, bags moved. Tel Headwater (01606) 48699 AITO ATOL 2412.

DORDOGNE 9 properties on wooded hilltop site with superb views. Exclusive development of renovated farmhouses and new villas with heated pool, tennis court, licenced bar & Satelite TV room. Janet 0121 313 2511

DORDOGNE nr Bergerac lux. hse, pool, hill top surr by vines, slps 12, 01232 615092 after 6pm

DORDOGNE Lovely 18th C manorhouse &/or cottage, priv pool tennis. 0171 482 3445

DORDOGNE Domme.Beautiful hse views, pool, slps 8, all dates apart Aug. 0033 553 590836

DORDOGNE/Lot. Farmhse. Slps 5. Lge pool, gdn, views. Fr £400pw. Tel: 01753 888871

DORDOGNE romantic chateau + suites.Brochure 01926 882432 http://www.achuk.net/chateau

LANGUEDOC Spec views from lovely Catalan style hse. Close to Spanish/French border. Slps 4/6. From £200 per week. Tel: 0171 609 4656.

LOIRE splendid house walled gardens, near Saumur sleeps 7. £200-300 pw 0181 852 5270.

LOT Célé Valley. Beautiful farmhouse, 300yds from river. 4 beds/3 baths, sleeps 8. £560-£700pw. 0171 731 2881.

Chez Nous '97
SAVE MONEY - BOOK DIRECT!
1700 PRIVATE OWNERS ADVERTISE
Chateaux • Villas & Farm Houses, many with pools
• Cottages • Studios • Apartments
• Family Hotels • Mobile Homes
• Bed & Breakfasts • City Breaks
All regions of France
Free 276 pg Colour Brochure
Tel: 01484 682503
http://www.cheznous.com

BEAUTIFUL THATCHED BARN. RECENTLY CONVERTED. SLEEPS 5. ALL MOD CONS.

LOT Pretty 4 bedrm/2 bath stone house in secluded 3 acres with pool/views. Slps 8+. All dates £450-£950pw. 01256 389405.

MAYENNE-Western Loire. Restd. 18thC stone f/hse, lovely rural setting. 3 dble bdrms, 2 baths, gdn BBQ. Slps 6. 01425 673904

MEDITTERRANEAN Pyrenees s/c/ mtn/coastal props. Slps 4-12 some with pools. Breathtaking countryside. 0171 284 2295. Country Cousins Abroad. http: //www.countrycousins.co.uk

NORMANDY, Honfleur. Lovely 18C beamed apt. Central posn. 2 mins fr. harbour, slps 4. 01923 854678 (eves/wkends).

NORMANDY Honfleur. Close to harbour. Apartments in converted maison de maitre sleeps 4-6 Tel: 01480 494944.

NORMANDY Gites de France cottages. 120 coastal & rural locations 01922 725705 AITO.

NORMANDY Lovely old farmhouse, sleeps 15, v. comfortable. Tel: 0181 3326142.

PROVENCE Nr Uzes & Avignon, beaut secluded & flexible 18thC farmhouse. Slps 4/12. Lge pool, terraces & gdns. Cook, housekeeper avail. From £250p.w. (Long Winter lets from £100p.w. Suit writers & painters). Tel: 00334 66822689.

PROVENCE Between Avignon & Aix. Luberon national park. Fully equipped apts in tranquil Provencal "mas". Large terrace, BBQs, two pools. Our 10th year - and guests keep returning. Call us direct 0541-513793.

PROVENCE Beautiful restored farmhse, rural setting, nr Grimaud/St Tropez, vineyard, tennis court, pool, slps 11. 7th June-12 July. 0171 351 3670.

PROVENCE duplex chateaux apt 2 bedrm, hilltop village, 1 hour Cannes. Glorious grounds, pool, tennis crt, boules, olive grove. Slps 4/5. Some avail July/ Aug. Tel: 0171 794 5261.

PROVENCE lovely well equip'd. 17c farmhse in spectacular scenery Mtns/Med 5mis. Beautiful pool. Suits 1/2 families. 01986 798254, fax 798826

PROVENCE. Superb restoration of XVIIIC property. Sleeps 10/12. Adult & Childrens pools. All amenities. 0171 373 1842.

PROVENCE nr Grasse. Delightful stone house (slps 8). Secluded gdns. Lge pool. Stunning views. Maid. Sept onwards. £975-£1950pw. 01189 402620.

PROVENCE Superb Chateau apt, pool, tennis, 40 mins Cannes & Grasse. 2/4. 0181 340 7408

PROVENCE Seillans, architect's hse, stunning views, pool, slps 6/7. Tel / fax 01772 783262.

PYRENEES. St. Cyprien Plage. Priv Villa, slps 6, walled gdn, priv pool, adj golf course. Sea 5 mins. Tel: 01322 669201

S.CHARENTE superb restored farmhouse, own pool, 9 acres grounds, 7 bdrms, 3 bathrms. All linen incl. from £689pw. Brochure 0171 6271746.

S.W. FRANCE. Quality villas & cottages, many with pools. Countryside-nr beaches. Francophile, Bonded 015394 31860

S FRANCE Village house apts close Med/Spain. Mag views from own sunny tces. Slps 4/6. £100-£300 pw. 01923 224651.

SOUTH OF FRANCE Port Grimaud. Delightful fully equipped apt, balcony overlooking picturesque marina, 5 mins beach, sleeps 4/6. Tel: 0171 4311390.

ST TROPEZ(Nr) Luxury apt, panoramic sea views, pool, tennis, gdns, slps 4. Fr £270pw. Daytime only 0171 5862474.

ST TROPEZ 4 miles. House for 4, gge, use of 2 lge pools. 10 mins beach. £475pw. 01732 451626.

ST TROPEZ Area, charming 3 bed hse, sea view, gdn, pool, slps 6. £396-580 pw. 01273 731487.

TARN-ET-GARONNE S.W. Region. Beautiful stone built cottage, pool, conv Pigonnier. Slps 6 + 2. Ring 01763 230622 brochure.

VAR lux villa. ½ hr coast. Sleeps 6-8. Swim pool. Aug/Sept now avail. Phone 0117 9540751.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

INDIA - WINTER SUN
GOA & KERALA
New 97/98 brochure out NOW.
A wide range of beach hotels from 2-5 ★
14nts B&B Goa or Kerala from £439.
Tours of North & South India
7nts 'In Search of the Tiger' + 7nts Goa from £940.
7nts 'Journey Through Kerala' + 7nts Kovalam from £699.
Flights to Goa from Gatwick or Manchester. Flights to Kerala from Gatwick.
Samak HOLIDAYS ATOL 2550 ABTA AITO
Contact your Travel Agent or call Tel: 0181 423 3000

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

Not only will Europ Assistance travel insurance give you comprehensive cover, we'll give you on-the-spot help, wherever you are.

We have over 30 years experience and representatives in 205 countries. We provide help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and have a host of multi-lingual co-ordinators, doctors and legal advisors who are there just when you need them most.

So, before you travel make sure you call us first (quoting ref TT4/2604).

01444 442553

europ assistance

Not just insurance, assistance.

GREECE

GREECE - Individually arranged, upmarket holidays in quality accommodation, many with pool, on 23 of the lesser known, unspoilt islands including Chios, Fourni, Ikaria, Lemnos, Samos, Amorgos, Folegandros, Milos, Mykonos, Naxos, Paros & Santorini. 24 hr Brochure line (01732) 740317. Greek Sun Holidays. Established 34 years. ATOL 0011. ABTA V219X. AITO.

HIDDEN GREECE Family-run hideaway on 25 unspoilt islands 0181 766 7868 ATOL 2578

HOUSES OF PELION Specialises in this lovely, truly unspoilt corner of mainland Greece. Charming s/c accom. Brochure 0171 226 0557 ABTOT 5011

SIMPLY CRETE Escape the mainstream and experience the real Crete. Restored country cottages, villas with private pools, quality apartments and family-run hotels. Plus Island Wandering and Special Interest Holidays. 0181 995 9323 ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO.

ITALY

APTS VENICE, Florence, Rome & villages. Also Villas with pools. Carefree Italy. 01293 552277.

APULIA Calabria Sicily & Amalfi undiscovered South. Hotels Farms Villas Apts Pools. 01694 722193 ATOL 4029.

BRIDGEWATER'S Idyllic Italy Countryside and Coast. Private Villas, Castles, Farmhouses, Country House Hotels, Tailormade holidays for the Independent Traveller. May/June Special Savers. 0161 707 8795 24 hours ABTA D0219

LAKE COMO near Menaggio, 3 bed flat with patio and views. Tel: 0181 969 9046 for details

CYCLING & Walking in undiscovered Italy. Great food, friendly hotels, bags moved. Tel Headwater (01606) 42220 AITO ATOL 2412.

PRIVATE country villa and apartment near Siena. Swimming Pool. 01446 772521 (H)

ROMANTIC B/B in charming old villa midst glorious mountain walks, medieval castles. Near sea. £22pppn. Good food also tuition. T/F 0039 187 427032.

SIMPLY TUSCANY & Umbria Traditional country villa apartments with pool and flexible, fly-drive holidays featuring charming, intimate hotels. Plus Special Interest Holidays and short breaks to Florence. Please call 0181 995 9323. ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

TUSCANY Nr Lucca in hills, sea views, charming hamlet w/pool. 4 s/c houses sleeping 8,7,2/6,2. Tel/Fax 0033 493 562006

TUSCAN COAST Monte Argentario, almost an island. House overlooking the sea near an unspoilt beach. 90 mins north of Rome. Tel: 0181 987 9919 Fax 0181 747 8343.

TUSCANY/SICILY. Select properties in excellent locations, pools etc. Col brochure 015394 31120 ABTA V7332.

Traditional farmhouses, villas and apartments in Italy's prettiest regions.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143683 QUOTE 1166
VACANZE IN ITALIA
ITALY

One Bedroom Villas in Tuscany
From only £319 Per Person
includes Car & Flights from Gatwick or Manchester
For FREE brochure call:
0181-390 5554
CRYSTAL ITALY

TUSCANY Spacious farmhouse, 4 bedrooms/2 baths, nr Florence, fr £350pw. Tel 01159 506966

TUSCANY Barga, secluded f/hse in tranquil valley. Beautiful scenery, slps 6. 01932 786768

TUSCAN SPRING in Castelnuovo, restored mountain farmhse, 3 apts. Tranquil. 01748 818314

TUSCANY Betw Siena & Assisi. Lovely hse & apt in olive grove, fr £160 pw. 0181 977 4561

UMBRIA/TUSCANY Borders, lake Trasimeno 8km, lux 18C frmhse, pool, lge gdn, exc views, from £200 pw. 60% reduct May. slps 2/14, Broch. 01509 672304.

UMBRIA. House in hills with pool. Nr Lake Trasimeno. Avail all year. Slps 6. 01582 22725.

VENICE s/c flat in beautifully restored palazzo. Also dbl rm with bth at £75per night incl brkfst. 0039 41 5225686

STUNNING SICILY
Save up to £150pp!
Taormina £489pp
(depts Gatwick 3 & 10 May)
Based on 7 nts HB accommodation in selected 3 ★ hotels.
Citalia
The Leading Italian Specialist
For full details phone
0181 686 5533
Quoting Ref: TI0
ABTA V4063 ATOL 28 IATA AITO

MALTA & GOZO

MALTA DIRECT TRAVEL
OUR REPUTATION RESTS ON THE GOOD HOTELS WE OFFER
OUR PRICES REMAIN UNBEATABLE
Colour Brochure from
FREEfone: 0800 181374
Reservations: 0181 785 3233
HOLIDAY MALTA COMPANY LIMITED
An Air Malta Co. ATOL 528 ABTA V5303

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

MALTA & GOZO

EXTENSIVE Choice of Hotels, Villas & Apts for 1997 best prices Brochure avail 01204 669114.

PORTUGAL

ALBUFEIRA 4 bed villa, sea view, slps 6-8 in comfort, from £400 pw. Avail now. 0171 4029534.

ALGARVE Nr Sao Bras. Superb farmhouse restoration. Group of 4 houses with pools. Sleep 2/20. Rent separate/together. Idyllic rural location. Stunning views. 01908 617735 or 211575(fax) for photos/info.

ALGARVE Beautiful large villa in peaceful location nr Carvoeiro, sleeps 8, large private pool, maid service. Ring 01756 720664 for brochure

ALGARVE, Burgau, luxury villa, 5 dbl bedrms, baths ensuite, sleeps 10-14, pool, available Apr-Sep. Day: 0181 742 8997 Eve, w/ends: 0181 994 7075

ALGARVE/ESTOI Well appointed modernised farmhouse, peaceful hillside setting. 25 mins Faro. Private pool. Sleeps 4. Fr £280pw. 01344 884757

ALGARVE magnificient hillside villa, 5 dbl bds, 4 bath, private pool, maid, GDNS, some dates still avail. 0181 334 0560

ALGARVE 1/2 bed apts in pt villa, pool, rent fr. £165pw broch. 01223 510768/01656 650699

CARVOEIRO Lux villa, slps 7. Own pool, gdn. Maid. Avail now onwards. 0181 4505088.

ALGARVE nr. Loule. Lux 2 bd + 4 bd villas. Pool, maid, tennis, Sat TV, phn. 0181 946 4286

LOULE. Peaceful luxury hillside villa, panoramic views. Full Air conditioning, sleeps 6. Maid, large private pool, gardens, terraces, owner 01342 712061.

CARVOEIRO Attr villa. Heated pool. Slps 6. Avail Apr, May, Sept.fr £300. 0141 776 3354.

LUXURY private villa for rental, standing in own grounds, Carvoeiro Algarve, 5 minutes beach, golf, tennis, shops etcetra. Sleeps 10/ 12, large private pool and every possible convenience. Call for brochure Mrs Coles 0171 375 1742 office hours

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts, hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 0181 654 2424. Retail agents. ABTA E143X

PRAIA DA LUZ pretty villa, 2 bed, 2 bath, close beach, club facilities, maid. Tel: 01494 814992

QUINTA DO LAGO Luxury villa available, apartment also. 01202 293899

SIMPLY PORTUGAL - Truly individual villas with pools, glorious manor houses and selected hotels and pousadas all over this fascinating country, plus flexible 'Wandering' holidays & city breaks. 0181 995 9323 ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO.

W.ALGARVE Lge 2 bed apt, close beaches/amenities. Pool, gdns, Sat TV, maid. 0181 2872207

PORTUGAL

VILAMOURA 3 beds detached villa, bath, 2 shower lrg kitch, dish- w, w-mach, lrg lounge, TV, raised dining rm, lrg ent hall, nicely ladd grdn, pool, b b que. Dates avail. 01189 416697.

SPAIN

ABSOLUTE joy in Andalucia! Our Moorish villa nr. Cordoba offers a complete change & rest for the discerning adventurer. Enjoy sun/pool/gdns/fountains & candlelit dinners. Ideal for drawing, walking, birdwatching & touring. All meals & drinks inc £380 p/person p/week. Avail. July onwards Mrs. Elliott 0171 229 6900.

ANDALUCIA, S.Spain family villa 2 bath 3 dble bdrms secluded courtyard stunning views. £300pw. 0181 788 7507.

AIGUABLAVA Apt slps 6, lovely setting, pools, sea, from £300pw. 01903 813374.

ANDALUCIA. 4 villas 5 mins sea. Pool, Tennis, Gardens. 01373 836080 ATOL 2854

APARTMENTS & Villas in Nerja. Telephone: 01706 524200/ 01706 711791

C.BLANCA. Pri. Lux. exec. villa. Lge pool, w/ stunning views. BBQ. Slps 6. Prices fr £360pw. Contact Carol 01363 774874.

CATALONIA. Pyrenean hotels, tours, city breaks. Lakes & Mountains 01329 844405 Aito

COSTA BRAVA flights direct from Bournemouth Airport to Gerona. Saturday departures. Hotels/Villas/Apts & car hire avail. Islanders 01202 578422 ATOL 4099 ABTA V498X

COSTA CALIDA Puerto de Mazarron. Rent direct from the owners luxury villas with private pools. Tel: 01932 248428.

DISCOVERING SPAIN the s/catering way. Trad homes in rural areas Andalucia, Green Spain C.Blanca, Mallorca most w.pool TTA bond 0181 731 7042

GUIDED WALKING through the forgotten villages of Andalucia and in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Tel Headwater (01606) 42220 AITO ATOL 2412.

JAVEA (LOS LAGOS) Apt. 2 dble bdrms. Excellent environment, gardens, swimming pool. 1 hr Alicante. 01895 832072.

LA MANGA CLUB. Villa available, Apartment also. 50% discount golf/tennis 01202 293839.

JAVEA Quiet villa with/out guest house, long pool, overlooks sea/valley. 01746 762266

LOS MONTEROS Marbella. Lux det 4 bed, 4 bath villa, own pool & gdn, nr beach club. 0181 381 2686 W, 0181 959 1315 H

MORAIRA C. Blanca. Lux villa. 4 dbl bds, 3 bths, lng, din rm, patio, s/pool, kit, appliances. Sat. Avail now. 0171 937 3951.

NR FUENGIROLA Wonderful Spacious old Cortijo. 7 acre estate, huge pool, tennis c't, slps 12 July, Sept. 01685 723042.

PUERTO BANUS, Marbella. Lux 3 bed apt, slps 6/8 set in gdns, pool. Avail 7 or 14 days from 30th Aug and/or 6th Sept. At £960 Pw. Tel: 0181 804 0633 (Cath Reeves, office hours)

INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS SPAIN
Traditional country houses, villas and apartments in countryside Spain and Portugal.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682
QUOTE REF ES275
AITO BOND 1010 ATOL 2432

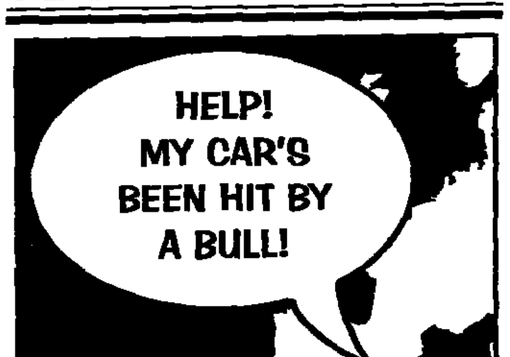
ITALY

Discover the Magic of Italy
• Hand-picked Hotels • Villas •
• City breaks • Resorts • Islands •
The Magic of Italy
SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL OUR 24HR BROCHURE HOTLINE ON
01233 211610
Quote Ref. TT
Winner Travel Industry Globe Award 1995. Best Short Haul Specialist Operator. Air Travel Group Holidays.

SWITZERLAND

SUPERB summer apartments & hotels. Lakes & Mountains, 01329 844405. AITO / ATOL.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL



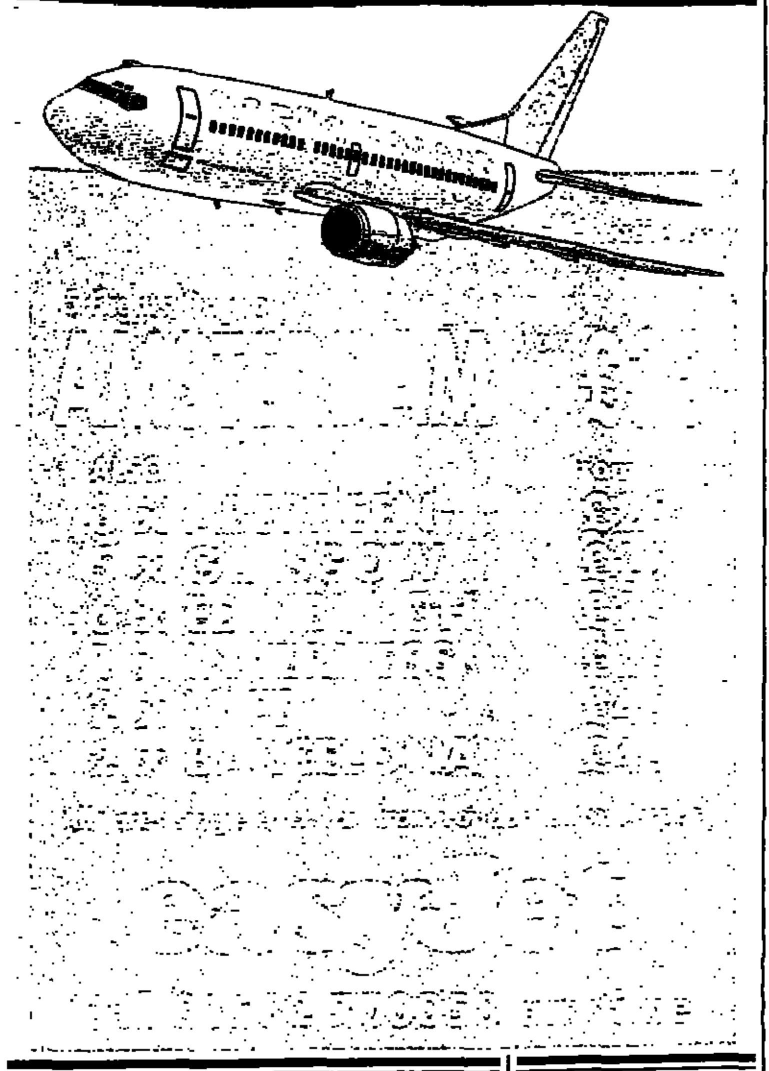
THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES

MONDAY & TUESDAY	9AM-6.30PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	9AM-8PM
FRIDAY	9AM-6PM
SATURDAY	9AM-4PM
SUNDAY	10AM-4PM

TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
HOLIDAY HOME TO LET?
RING THE TIMES
0171 481 4000
TIMES CLASSIFIED MEANS SATISFIED

CHECK-IN



USA & CANADA

ABSOLUTELY nowhere near Disney! The best apartment on Sanibel Is, FL Paradise: Beaches, Shells, Wildlife. Safe!! 1997 vacancies 01851 672242

FLORIDA Due to cancellation 3 bed luxury lakeside villa on golf course (free golf). 40 mins Disney & beaches £450pw. Also others from £250. 01446 421 497 days. 01446 721 884 eves.

FLORIDA KEYS 1 & 2 bdrm s/c. Waterfront, pool, tennis, sailing packages available. Fr £375pw. 001 305 8522405

FLORIDA Gulf Coast. Riverfront 2 bed apt, pool, fish dock, cycles, beach. £295 pw 01253 886233

GULF COAST Large executive homes with pools, sleep up to 12, fr £425pw. 01277 652628

MARCO ISLAND Florida 3bd/3bth Superb villa, FAB view, all amenities. Tel: 01925 265512

NEW ENGLAND CONNECTION: UK specialist in individual homes. Cape Cod, New Hamps, Vermont. 01306 711959

CANADA
TORONTO VANCOUVER, CALGARY, HALIFAX, EDMONTON, VICTORIA, MONTREAL, WINNIPEG, FR £199.
CAR HIRE FROM £15.00/DAY
Freefone
0800 960027

U.K. HOLIDAYS

QUALITY HOLIDAY COTTAGES IN SUPERB LOCATIONS
Most cottages take pets, provide linen and include fuel in the price
Special discounts for couples.
Call for your FREE full colour 1997 brochure
01756 702225

English Country Cottages
AN UNRIVALLED choice in England's loveliest areas.
Free 444 page colour brochure.
RING (01455) 852222
QUOTE E894 (24Hrs)

It's the only brochure you'll need
Country Holidays
BIG 560 PAGE BROCHURE
- Widest choice - Over 4,000 cottages in Britain & Ireland.
- Prices from £85 per week & £80 per Short Break, per property.
- Pets welcome at many cottages.

Call for your FREE brochure.
01282 445729

U.K. HOLIDAYS

classic cottages
Just for the discerning
Free brochure featuring 300 selected West Country cottages
☎326 565555

CORNWALL & DEVON

AMAZING Value quality cottages across Devon. Out now 1997 colour broch. 01756 702203

AUTHENTIC Cornish farmhouse, idyllic setting. Aga, large gdn. Between St Michael's Mount & St Ives. Slps 8. 01736 740219.

ITALY

LAKE GARDA

3,7,10 May
7 nights, 3T HB hotel in Limone
£219
or 14,17 May for £239
To book call now on:
0990 502 579
or see your local travel agent

THOMSON
LAKES & MOUNTAINS

Prices based on 2 sharing a room flying from Gatwick. Manchester available at a supp. Accommodation allocated on arrival in Limone. See the Thomson PriceBreaker brochure for accommodation details. Prices and availability correct at time of printing.
Thomson Tour Operations ABTA V5126, ATOL 2524.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

JERSEY Self catering. Free colour guide. Freedom Holidays. Tel: 01534 36398. Fr £70 p/wk

JERSEY
Call now for your Island Hotels Direct brochure
- Short breaks & holidays of any duration.
- Privilege discount card to use in restaurants, shops & much more.
- Free Jersey guide book.
- Travel on the Ultimate Time Machine aboard CONDOR Ferries Superfast Catamaran from Poole.
- Accommodation to suit all budgets.
- Local departures & Budget Car Hire.
- Fabulous child discounts, single savers and celebration packages.
- Our unique price pledge - book direct

For Brochure & Reservations call
01202 434310

CORNWALL & DEVON

LARGEST selection of Tourist Board inspected holiday cottages on N Devon's National Trust coastline & Exmoor. Marsdens Cottage Holidays. 01271 813777 (24 hrs)

MOUSEHOLE Comfortable well equipped cottage in village centre, slps 4. 0181 504 3494

N CORNWALL Reduced rate ½ term (& other weeks) bungalow, close beach. 01264 710024.

PORT ISAAC/Rock clse. Charming lux farm cott, slps 4. Tennis Av May June, Sept. 01208 841580.

PORT ISAAC Cornwall. Victorian house, recently refurbished to a high standard. Magnificent sea views. 0115 966 4260

PORT ISAAC Charming listed cottage with sunny terrace, sleeps 4, Tel: 01179 719617.

SALCOMBE Area. Village cottage, 3 bed, excellent location, Tel: 01444 235905

ROSEVINE HOTEL Portscatho nr St. Mawes. 3* 4 Crown Highly Commended family managed country hotel. Large garden, magnificent sea views, outstanding cuisine. Heligan gardens offer. 01872 580206

SLAPTON SANDS. 3 country hse apts for 2 or 4. Spectacular views. Secluded grounds. £145-360. Parsons 01803 712485.

SOUTH Devon. Character country cottages. Superb accommodation in idyllic location. Special rates for May/ June/ Sept availability. Details: 01392 824550

WATERSIDE Cottage. Unspoilt views, garden, dinghy, private foreshore. 01208 872444.

THE LIZARD Cliff top house. S facing, slps 4, Beautifully equiped, Tel: 01494 881671.

WATERSIDE cottages Nr Fowey/ Polruan Superb views. Dinghies avail, pets welc. 01579 344667

COTSWOLDS

ABSOLUTE Comfort, Highly Commended Country Cottages, Winchcombe. 01242 602390

CHARMING Cosy, Quiet Cotswold cottages nr Cheltenham, each slp 3, Tel. 01242 672848

COTSWOLDS Specialists. Choose from over 180 cottages. 01282 445 726 (LKH286)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 2 mls. Beautiful recently conv. to very high spec 120 yr old barn. Original beams, splendid views, slps 4+2 + cot. FF kit. TV, Sat, etc. Excel tourist base. Strictly N/S or pets. 01926 604106.

DORSET, HANTS., & I.O.W.

BOURNEMOUTH, Poole, Christchurch, New Forest. Scores of houses/ flats, bungalows and caravans. Sleep 1-9. Free colour brochure. Tel: 01258 858580

DORSET Specialists. Choose from over 230 cottages. 01282 445726 (LKH170)

EAST ANGLIA

LET'S Get Together in Norfolk! Wonderful walks, splendid seascapes, excellent holiday cottages from Norfolk Country Cousins. Bikes too. For brochure ring 01692 650286.

N. NORFOLK Tranquility. 6 superb barn conversions, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium and more, Old farm cottages, brochure. Tel/Fax/ Ansaphone 01692 536612. Or 01692 535148

N.NORFOLK Coast. Very comfortable barn conversion, Wells-next-Sea. Sleeps 2. Private parking. 01328 711479(eves).

N. NORFOLK Coast. Lux Stable Court. S/C or B/B. Slps 4-8. No smoking/Pets. 01328 830375

NW NORFOLK cosy cottage in sleepy village, 6 miles NT coast, slps 4/7. 01328 823920

HOLIDAYS AFLOAT

DUKE & Duchess Hotel Narrowboats fully catered 3-6 night cruises. 01908 698416 broch.

IRELAND

CO. CLARE. Nr Spanish Point, self contained flat in rural area. Slps 5. Ideal touring base for The Burren etc. Board Failte approved, + and 4 bed farmhse avail. Scenic walks, fishing, golf & close beaches. Ideal for children Tel: 0171 272 7496

CO KERRY - Priv. lux cottages & bungs. Mag loc nr sea, lake, golf Slps 2-6. Tel 00353 66 69234

GALWAY Traditional thatched cottage near Loch Corrib sleeps 4. Tel: 01926 491872.

KERRY. Stone cottage. Near Kenmare. Bay views. Sleeps 4 + 2. Golf. Fishing. 0181 3985586.

IRISH Country Holidays - the premier choice. Over 300 individual cottages, farmhouses, hotels, R. Shannon cruising & Gypsy Caravans all to highest standards. Many welcome pets. Call 01502 560688 (24 hrs)

SHAMROCK COTTAGES. 286 select individual cottages in superb locations. Disc Fares. AITO. Col Bro 01823 681060.

W.CORK Idyllic 19C coastal family home, slps 6+, mins beaches & pub. Tel: 00353 2822865

LAKE DISTRICT

CONISTON Superb farmhse, slps 12, 16 acres, pvte lake front, games barn. 0161 225 4082

AMAZING value quality cottages in the Lake District. 1997 colour brochure. 01756 702208

CUMBRIAN COTTAGES. 200 Lakeland cottages ETB inspected. Short breaks & May B'hol vacs. 01228 599960.

KESWICK Holiday cottage Sleeps 4/5. Furnished to high standard. No pets. 0191 2680047

LAKE DISTRICT Specialists. Choose from over 335 cottages. 01282 445726 (LKH165)

SOUTH LAKES luxury character stone apartment overlooking lake, sleeps 4/6. 01204 366885

ULLSWATER Lux apt for 2, n/s, £145pw in May, Tel. 01768 486235

WASDALE Cottages in 7 riverside acres. Sleep 2/4 & 5/7. May avail. 01946 726233

LONDON

SAVE Up To 50% on your London hotel bills. Quality hotels, all centrally located. 2* to 5* from £28. 0181 770 0123 The Hotel Directory.

GREAT alternative to Hotel. 1 dbl 2 sgl, lux furnished serviced flat avail £650 pw incl. West End convience and close to tube. (44)171794 9062

KENSINGTON/Hampstead fully furnished apts 0181 451 3094 or Fax 0181 459 4422.

CENTRAL London fully furnished apartments. 0181 451 3094 or Fax 0181 459 4422

NEW FOREST

LUXURY GEORGIAN HOTEL Peace, beautiful gdns, Jacuzzis, King size beds 01703 292257

NEW FOREST & Dorset. Choose from over 230 cottages. 01282 445 726 (LKH287)

NORTHUMBRIA

AMAZING value Northumbria cottages. 1997 colour brochure. 01756 702217

CAUSEWAY cottages. Attractive s/c properties in delightful region. 01670 522580.

SUPERB Cottages. Northumbria, Y.Dales, Shrops, Lakes, Peaks. Sykes Cottages 01244 345700.

NORTHUMBRIA Specialists. Choose from over 220 cottages. 01282 445 726 (LKH288)

PEAK DISTRICT

CHARMING Peak cottage, near Bakewell, great walks, pets welcome. 01629 636863.

DERBYSHIRE 16th Century cottage. Log fire. Ideal for walking & sighting. Tel 01623 647096.

"PEAK COTTAGES" Quality s/c accom. in Derbyshire Dales & Peaks. Brochure 01142 620777

PEAK DISTRICT Specialists. Choose from over 260 cottages. 01282 445726 (LKH166)

SCOTLAND

AMAZING Value Scotland cottages. New 52 page brochure. 01756 702230

ARDNAMURCHAN Country House accom, romantic dinner by candle light. Fresh Fish & Game menus with home made breads. Quiet and peaceful 3,5 & 7 day breaks from £176. Tel Brochure 01972 510238

EDINBURGH Centrally situated modern flat with all mod cons, slps 4, very clean. Further details, tel 01577 863367.

ARGYLL Comfortable, peacefull, lochside cottage, fully fitted, stunning views from £180pw. Tel: 01344 483691.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL central modern flat avail, sleeps 2/ 4, Tel: 01315 531263

ISLE OF MULL Druimnacroish country house hotel now converted into spacious, luxury, S/C apartment. 01688 400274

SCOTLAND

ISLE OF MULL Cottage overlooking sea all mod cons C/heating Tel:0141 639 2626 After 6pm.

MORAY FIRTH Coast, Idyllic country cott, slps 6, close golf & castles. lovely beaches, late bookings from £220pw incl. Tel: 01261 821282

NORTH WEST Coast nr Plockton & Skye. SC lux guest wing of lodge, woodland gdns, games rm, panoramic views, gazebo, BBQ, slps 4. 0131 556 0101.

PERTHSHIRE Loch Tay superbly equiped log chalet - sauna TV stereo. N/S, sleeps 2 spectacular views, Loch fishing ideal for hill walking water sports and tranquility. 01887 830210.

PERTHSHIRE Lux barn, kingsize 4 poster, 2 en-suite bedrms, slps 6. Brochure. 01350 723207

ROYAL DEESIDE Lux holiday cott, slps 8, gdn, 4-pstr bd, nr Golf, fishing & walks. 0131 4471056

SCOTLAND Specialists. Choose from over 640 cottages. 01282 445726 (LKH167)

ST ANDREWS Comfortable house, central, sleeps 5/7, avail all dates. 01609 882687

WEST Coast nr Mallaig. Well equip lodge, slps 8, 2 bthrms, sea views. 01479 810867/ 810694

Country Cottages in Scotland
EXCEPTIONAL holiday properties in the most beautiful areas of Scotland.
FREE 84 PAGE BROCHURE
RING (0990) 851133
QUOTE S536 (24 Hrs)

SOMERSET & AVON

TAUNTON 10 mls. Secluded cottage by stream, 4 Keys Highly Commended. Open fire, use of open htd pool. Avail fr May 31st. 01458 251434/252796.

COTTAGES & houses all over the West Country: over 450, vividly described/ star rated: Colour brochure. Helpful Holidays, Coombe, Chagford, Devon. TQ13 8DF. Tel: 01647 433535

SURREY & SUSSEX

15TH C. CASTLE Tun. Wells. 6 mls, Henry Bates hunting lodge, 30 acres, 2 lakes golf nrby. S/c or catered, accom 16. Tel: 01892 770061

WALES

ABERDYFI Trefeddian Hotel Sea & Country views AA***RAC. Own Grounds Indoor Swimming pool Lift. Balcony Rooms Overlooking Cardigan Bay Col Brochure 01654 767213

ABERSOCH. Rural cottage superb views. Vacs. Lovely May, June, Autumn. 01758 712449.

BEAUTIFUL colour brochure of quality properties around the splendid Welsh coast. Linen provided, pets welcome free. Quality Cottages. 01348 837873

PEMBROKESHIRE Cottage waterway view. Inn nearby. Brochure 01437 532495 anytime.

FRANCE

HOLIDAY IDEAS IN
Brittany
0181 641 6060
for the brochure
villas, cottages, mobile homes, *river cruising*, special interest courses & activities for all the family

WALES

N PEMBS Newly refurb cott. Gdn. Nr coast/ walks. Slps 4 fr £180pw. 01239 621292.

SCENIC Quality spacious bungalow. Slps 2-8. 'Awards' 5 keys and brochure. 01487 841242

SNOWDONIA Victorian Manor AA ** Awards. Magnificent peaceful location, superb cuisine, tempting tariff. Dolserau Hall, Dolgellau. (01341) 422522

SOLVA Pembs. S/C studio annexe, sleeps 2. Magnificent scenery & walks. Tel: 01437 720160.

ST DAVIDS Pembs. Slps 2. Tasteful coastal studio. Sth facing garden. Tel: 01437 720001.

WALES Specialists. Choose from over 410 cottages. 01282 445726 (LKH168)

Welsh Country Cottages
AN UNRIVALLED choice in the best areas of Wales.
Free 68 page colour brochure.
RING (0990) 851122
QUOTE W443 (24Hrs)

PEMBROKESHIRE
A superb selection of quality character cottages in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. All properties furnished to the highest standards.
Phone now for free colour brochure
01239-881397 (24hrs)

WILTSHIRE

NR BATH Canal side cottage, fully equipped, slps 4, available May-Sept. 01380 828230

YORKSHIRE

CENTRAL York lovely modern town house, sleeps 4, all inclusive. Anne Ives 01904 700457.

HAWORTH (Bronte village) beautifull cottage for 2, nr village centre, wild beauty of moors and steam railway. From £95 pw inc. 0171 794 1727.

HOWARDIAN HILLS Well equipp Cottage sleeps 4, wonderful views/walks. 01653 648801

SUPERB Cottages Y/Dales, Shrops Lakes, Peaks, Northumbria. Sykes Cottages 01244 345700.

SPECIAL INTEREST

BATTLEFIELD TOURS WW 1/2. 4 days/3 nts, fr £299 HB. Flanders, Somme, Arnhem. Richard Mason, Tel 01603 618803

TENNIS HOLIDAYS in the sun at The Jonathan Markson Algarve Tennis Centre. Beautiful location. All ages & standards. 0171-460 0600 (24 hrs)

VIETNAM, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia. Unique Escorted Group & Tailor-Made holidays. Asian Journeys 01604 234855

Cycling & Walking Holidays
Leisurely tours through beautiful Bavaria & the Black Forest. Hand picked hotels. Bicycles provided. Luggage transported.
Brochure from: Bents Bicycle & Walking Tours (DT)
The Blue Cross, Orleton, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 4HN
AITO 01568 780 800

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA
The specialists in travel to
CHILE
Escorted Groups and Bespoke Tours
0181 747 8315
Low cost flights
0181 747 3108
Manchester office
0161 832 1441
ABTA 97522 ATOL 2828 IATA AITO - FULLY BONDED

WILDLIFE WORLDWIDE, Handcrafted itineraries & small group departures. Tel: 0181 667 9158 ATOL AITO.

TURKEY

S.COAST Cottage nr Dalyan & airport. Conservation area. Slps 6. 01432 356152/ 041 0488946

SIMPLY TURKEY Discover a delightfully different Turkey, away from the mainstream, with our unique range of rural cottages, villas with pools and friendly hotels. Plus our flexible wandering programme, special interest holidays, gulet cruising and Istanbul city breaks. 0181 995 9323 ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO.

DOLUNAY HOLIDAYS
Escape to unspoilt TURKEY
Idyllic coastal villages
Gulet cruising
Fascinating cities
Black Sea & Cappadocia
Two centre & Tailor-made Holidays
☎01452 501978 (24hrs)

RUSSIA

INDEPENDENT travel packages, Air fares, groups, Interchange 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

PAN TOURS
RUSSIA
St Petersburg fr£389 5nts
Moscow fr£449 5nts
St Petersburg - Moscow fr£489 7nts
All tours include Return Flight, B/B in 4 star hotels, train.
Also Special offer avail 15th August
For reservations or details call
Pan Tours
0171 233 8458

EASTERN EUROPE

POLAND
10 Day Holiday with Half Board
£139
To Zakopane in the Beautiful Tatra Mountains

USA & CANADA

DISNEY A delightful new lux exshowhome. Own htd pool, o'looks lake. 01423 868278.

U.S. WELCOME DIRECTORY
of Selected Hotels & Inns for Independent Travellers to East Coast North America.
The only full colour directory of the best hotels, country inns, B&Bs. Free sampler available
01923 821469

NEW ENGLAND
COUNTRY HOMES
A superb collection of coastal, lakeside & inland properties throughout New England.
FREE 132 PAGE BROCHURE
CALL:
(0990) 143686 (24 Hrs)
Quote Ref. N346.
ATOL 2984

SPECIAL INTEREST

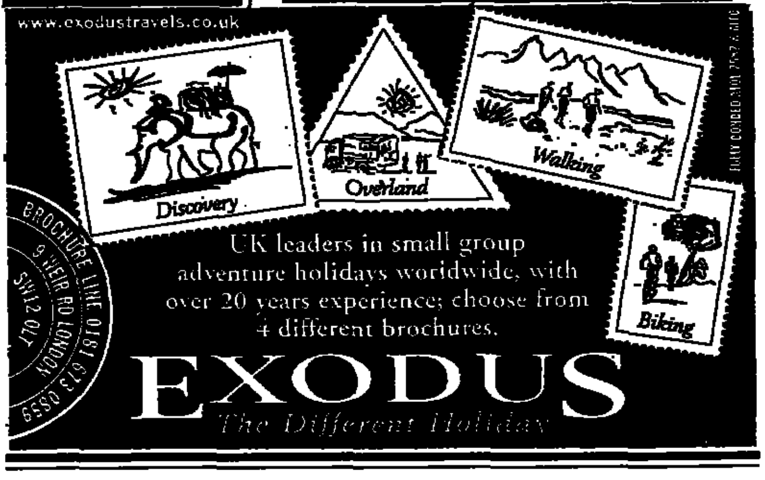
"TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE MORE DISAPPOINTED BY THE THINGS YOU DIDN'T DO THAN BY THE ONES YOU DID."
Mark Twain

Earthwatch, an international charity with over twenty years experience, gives you the chance to participate as a paying volunteer in over 120 vital environmental and cultural projects worldwide.

All ages are welcome. You need no special skills, just two weeks to make a difference. For more details call 01865 311600.

EARTHWATCH
EVERYONE'S GOT A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE
Registered Charity No. 327017

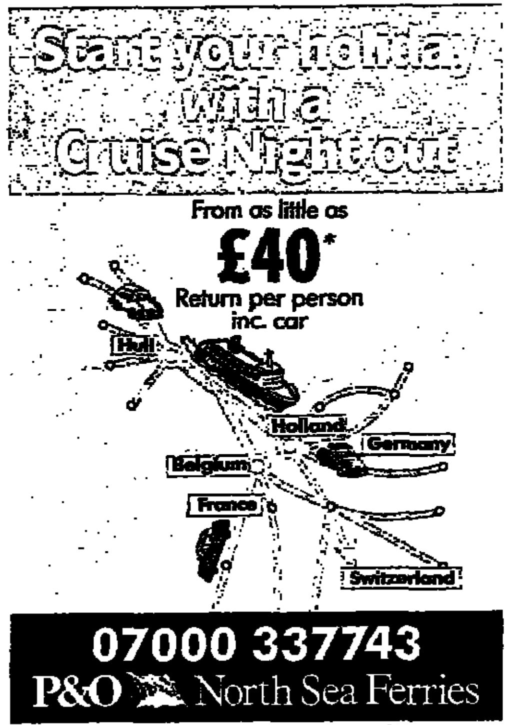
SPECIAL INTEREST



Discovery
Overland
Walking
Biking
BROCHURE LINE 0181 673 0859 9 WEIR RD LONDON SW12 0LT

www.exodustravels.co.uk
UK leaders in small group adventure holidays worldwide, with over 20 years experience; choose from 4 different brochures.
EXODUS
The Different Holiday

OVERSEAS TRAVEL



From as little as
£40*
Return per person inc. car
07000 337743
P&O North Sea Ferries
*Based on a low season 5 night return for a car and four people

CHANNEL ISLANDS

JERSEY - Where summer comes earlier!
PHONE JERSEY TOURISM
0345 055055
for your FREE BROCHURE and 'Where to Stay'
JERSEY

WALES

BORDERS. Idyllic Country cottage, Herefordshire. Secluded, full of character with lovely garden, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped, excellent walking and riding country. Salmon fishing locally. 2½ hours from London. Weeks available fr £350. Call (01981) 590211 for brochure

BRECON Beacons. Over 100 s/c cottages some sleep 20. Many less than £250 pw high season. Short bks avail 01874 676446

N.PEMBROKESHIRE Cottages, high standards, grade 5, breathtaking views. Brochure Tel: 01239 841285.

YORKSHIRE

WHITBY Elegant Georgian Larpool Hall in own grounds overlooking Esk Valley. AA Rosette cuisine. 2nts DBB £54.95 pp/pn. 01947 602737

YORK City Centre Book now £25.50 B&B £35.50 DB&B 3 nts spec. £100.50 DB&B Suppl. For singles/races. All facilities. Carpark Abbots Mews Hotel 01904 634866

YORKSHIRE Specialists. Choose from over 410 cottages. 01282 445726 (LKH169)

CHECK-IN

World Offers from London.
Flight prices start at:
Amsterdam from £59 rtn
Paris from £59 rtn

For these and many other World Offers call us anytime on:
0345 222111
Book by 14th May '97.
All fares listed are return from London, may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger taxes excluded. For details and conditions see ITV Teletext p.380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop.
WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

RUSSIA

INTO SIBERIA.
OUT OF THIS WORLD
FROM £285.

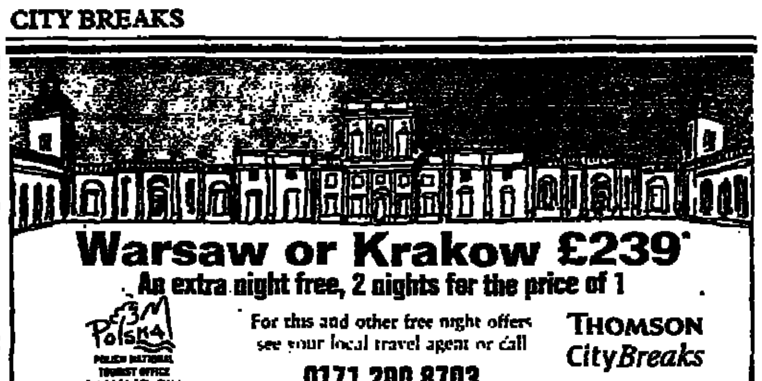
Travel independently with Intourist on the world's longest train adventure from Moscow to Vladivostok. Alternatively, take the Trans Manchurian or Trans Mongolian Railways to Beijing. Journey prices start at just £285. Call Intourist Travel now for more details.

LONDON 0171 538 8600 MANCHESTER 0161 834 0230 GLASGOW 0141 204 5809

Please send me more information on Intourist holidays.
Name IS13
Address
Postcode
To Intourist Travel Ltd. Intourist House, 219 Marsh Wall, London E14 9PD.

ABTA V5959
INTO SIBERIA
FROM INTOURIST TRAVEL LTD.
ATOL 248. IATA.
Now you can.

CITY BREAKS



Warsaw or Krakow £239*
An extra night free, 2 nights for the price of 1
Polska
POLISH NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE
For this and other free night offers see your local travel agent or call
0171 200 8703
THOMSON CityBreaks
*2 nights in 3T Jan Sobieski in Warsaw flying from Heathrow or 3T Pod in Krakow flying from Gatwick from 26 Apr 30 Jun and 1 Nov 31 Dec 1997. Thomson Tour Operations Ltd ABTA V5126 ATOL 2524

CORNWALL & DEVON

BEAUTIFUL cottages Roseland, St Mawes, nr beach, gardens and NT houses. Tel: 01872 501214.

CLASSIC Cottages. Over 300 select cottages in the West Country, just for the discerning. Brochure 01326 565555

CORNWALL Specialists. Choose from over 360 cottages. 01282 445726 (LKH161)

CORNWALL & DEVON. 300 cottages throughout. Reasonable prices. Tel 01752 260711

COTTAGES & houses all over the West Country: over 450, vividly described/ star rated: Colour brochure, Helpful Holidays, Coombe, Chagford, Devon. TQ13 8DF. Tel: 01647 433535

DARTMOUTH Kingswear. Two attractive 17C cottages (1 slps 12. 1 slps 6.) Adj manor. 1½ miles Coast. Ideal location for all pursuits. 01803 752491.

DARTMOOR CHAGFORD charming cottage high spec, slps 4, excel position. 01647 433456

FABULOUS Stone cottages near Falmouth, slps 2/10, fr £180pw 01736 797996 / 0831 712031

FREE Colour Guide to the 500 best value cottages in Devon. 01271 76322.

Cornish Traditional Cottages
Self-catering cottages on both coasts of Cornwall and on Scilly
For your FREE brochure 'phone 01208 872559
LOSTWITHIEL, CORNWALL PL22 0HT
7 day Personal Service 9am-9pm

ITALY

FLORENCE
An extra night free.
3 nights for the price of 2.
£275*
For this and other free night offers in selected 1T to 3T hotels see your local travel agent or call:
0171 200 8703
THOMSON CityBreaks
*3 nights in a 1T hotel, 1st May to 26th June flying from Gatwick.

DORSET, HANTS., & I.O.W.

I.O.W Lux top graded apart, balcony overlooking sea. Spring vacancies. 01983 852259.

LOVELY Dorset cottage late available April onwards sleeps 4 from £160pw. 0467 203621

LYME REGIS house, slps 8/14. Spring breaks available. Also July/Aug. 01297 445158.

MAY SPECIAL
3 NIGHTS FROM £89
Bed, Breakfast & Evening Meal
Large seafront hotel, entertainment, indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna
• FREE CAR FERRY •
Sandringham Hotel
Seafront, Sandown, Isle of Wight
Tel: 01 983 406655
Spring Bank Holiday
3 nights from £99

WARMWELL LEISURE RESORT
NEAR WEYMOUTH
QUALITY LODGES IN 40 ACRE PARK LANDSCAPED WITH PINE TREES. DRY SKI SLOPE. FUN POOL ETC.
LAST MINUTE BARGAINS to MAY 1st inc. and MAY 19th - 22nd inc.
7 nights only £99 - 3/4 night breaks £60
Parkdean HOLIDAYS
0191 224 0500

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS
CAMP BEAUMONT
for CHILDREN & TEENAGERS
Fun & Adventure
Exciting Activities
17 Years' Experience
Superb Facilities
Escorted Travel
Experienced Supervision
Day & Residential Adventure Holidays in London, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Norfolk & France
Free Brochure & Video
CAMP BEAUMONT, FREEPOST, LON 4105, London NW1 0YS
Tel: 0171 724 2233

CYCLING & WALKING Holidays Brochure fr Wheely Wonderful Cycling Ludlow 01568 770755

SUFFOLK Cycle Breaks. Quality holidays with full backup. W/e or longer Broch:01449 721555

EXCLUSIVELY SINGLE
Top hotel accommodation, all meals, including all equipment & teaching.
FOR A WEEKEND £175
FOR A WEEK £485
ACORN ACTIVITIES
01432 830083

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS FOR 6-18's
prices abseil!
40 YEARS PGL
Last few holidays at bargain prices. Don't hang around - they won't be available for long! Over 60 activities at 23 centres in UK & France. ABTA & BAHA members.
For details & '97 brochure call free on
0500 749147
PGL
PGL, 731 Penyard Lane, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5GL.

NEW FOREST

SUMMER BREAKS
In the beautiful New Forest
MIDWEEK AND WEEKEND SPECIAL OFFERS
CAREYS MANOR HOTEL
AA ★★★ RAC
Johansens
Egon Ronay
Highly Commended
Superb Indoor Pool. Stylish Bedrooms over-looking colourful Gardens. The Restaurant is renowned for good food and friendly service. Log Fires.
01590 623551
BROCKENHURST, HAMPSHIRE

LONDON

HOTEL! HOTEL!
ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE
Top Four & Five Star Hotels in Central London From £89 pp
Accommodation, Breakfast, Top seats to West End Shows & Events

Tel: 01372 464488 • Fax: 01372 468844

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

SO SURPRISING
TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS AT OFF-THE-PEG PRICES.

Tell us your dreams and we'll turn them into a New Zealand holiday you'll never forget. Tailored to fit your wishes, our holidays can't be beaten on individuality or cost - and that's a guarantee! For more information, give us a call.

AIR NEW ZEALAND APPOINTED AGENTS
All-Ways Pacific
ATOL 3485 ABTA AITO
The holiday company that's as individual as you are
01494 875757

هدية من الاهرام

هكذا من الاعلى

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

SOME Black defences are considered respectable, some are not. If you play the Caro-Kann or the Sicilian, your chess credentials are impeccable. However, if you try the risky Scandinavian or Centre Counter Defence, your club and team mates' eyebrows are liable to be raised somewhat. Nevertheless, this defence, offbeat though it is, has had some notable exponents, including Bent Larsen, Viswanathan Anand, the 1995 World Championship challenger, Vassily Ivanchuk and our own Michael Adams, Britain's number two.

A new book by John Emms shows that the Scandinavian may be unusual, but probably no more dangerous for Black than other mainstream defences. The following attractive game results in a dramatic win for White, true, but Black avoids the principal variation on move six and gets carried away with the thought of purloining a central pawn.

White: Stuart Conquest
Black: Julian Hodgson
German Bundesliga 1995

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5
3 Nc3 Qa5 4 d4 Nf6
5 Bc4 c6

Instead of 5 ... c6 Black can also try the tricky 5 ... Bg4. After 6 f3 Bf5 7 Nge2 c6 8 g4 Bg6 9 Nf4 Nbd7 10 h4 e5 11 h5! Bf5 12 gxf5 exf4 13 Qd3 Qc7 14 Qe2+ Be7 15 Bd2 Nb6 16 Bb3 Rd8 17 0-0-0! Rxd4 18 Qg2 White had a strong attack in Yudasin-Oll, Dos Hermanas 1992.

6 Bd2 Qc7?! Black probably should be content with 6 ... Bf5 when 7 Nf3 leads to the main line.

7 Nf3 Bg4 8 h3 Bxf3
9 Qxf3

We have reached a position which Black should try to avoid. White has the two bishops, is ready to castle queenside and has the simple plan of launching the kingside pawns forward. In contrast, Black's position lacks any real prospects of counterplay.

9 ... e6 10 0-0-0 Nbd7
11 g4 Nb6 12 Bf1!

An excellent square for the bishop. On b3 the bishop would only be prone to attack from ... a5-a4.

*12 ... **Rd8** 13 g5 Ng8.* An unnatural retreat, but 13 ... Nfd5 14 Ne4! followed by c4 would severely embarrass the knight.

14 h4! Ignoring the attack on d4. *Hodgson could not resist the offer.*

14 ... Rxd4 15 Nb5!!

Commencing a brilliant attack on the black king, reminiscent of the dashing style of the 19th century American champion Paul Morphy.

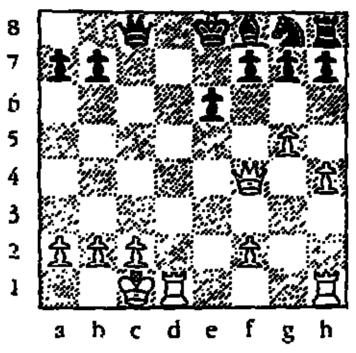
15 ... cxb5 16 Bxb5+Nd7
17 Bf4!

A *star move, although Conquest* admitted that the more sober 17 Bc3 would have been equally effective.

17 ... **Rxf4.** 17 ... Qxf4+ 18 Qxf4 Rxf4 19 Rxd7 *and* Black *will* be mated, e.g. 19 ... a6 20 Rhd1 axb5 21 Rd8+ Ke7 22 R1d7 mate. Alternatively, 19 ... a6 20 Rhd1 f6 21 Rd8+ Kf7 22 Be8+ Ke7 23 R1d7 mate.

18 Bxd7+ Qxd7. 18 ... Ke7 loses to 19 Qa3+, but 18 ... Kd8 is more stubborn. Yet there is still a winning line with 19 Bxe6+ Ke8 (Or 19 ... Ke7 20 Bc4!!) 20 Bd7+ Kd8 21 Qe3 Ne7 22 Bb5+ Kc8 23 Rd7.

19 Qxf4 Qc8



20 Rh3! Initiating the final decisive assault, and making good use of the earlier h4!

20 ... Ne7. 20 ... Bc5 21 Rc3 followed by b4 is quite adequate to win.

21 Rf3 Nf5 22 Rc3. Now that the knight has been deflected, this move is a killer.

22 ... Bc5 23 Rxc5 Qxc5
24 Qb8+ Ke7 25 Qxb7+

Black resigns. *25 ... Ke8 26 Qd7+ Kf8 27 Qd8 is mate. A supreme* attacking display by Conquest.

John Emms *The Scandinavian Defence* (Chess Press, £14.99) is available from Cadogan Books plc, *27-29 Berwick Street, London* W1V 3RF (0171-287 6555).

WINNING MOVE

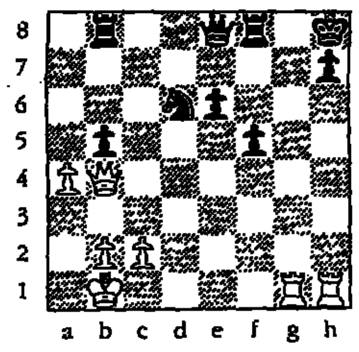
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Gallagher - Summerscale, Cannes 1997.

White could simply capture the black knight on d6 and regain material equality. However, he has something far stronger. Can you see it?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will *win a year's subscription* to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-*Strand. The* answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rxd5
Last week's winner: A J Beatty, Old Windsor, Berkshire.



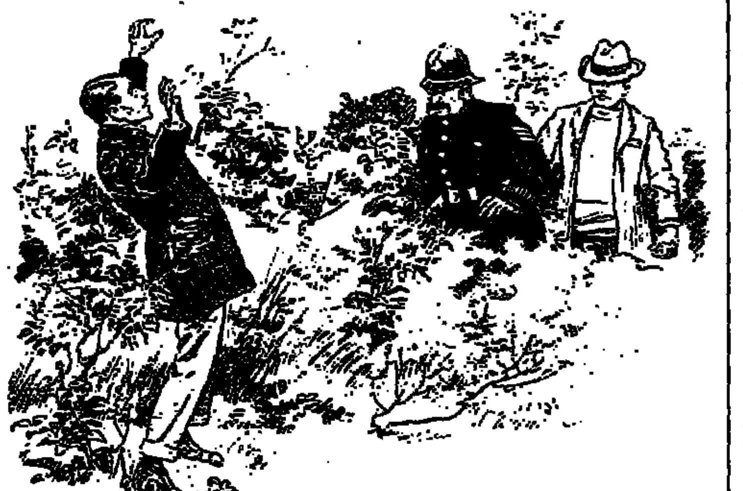
PUNCHLINE

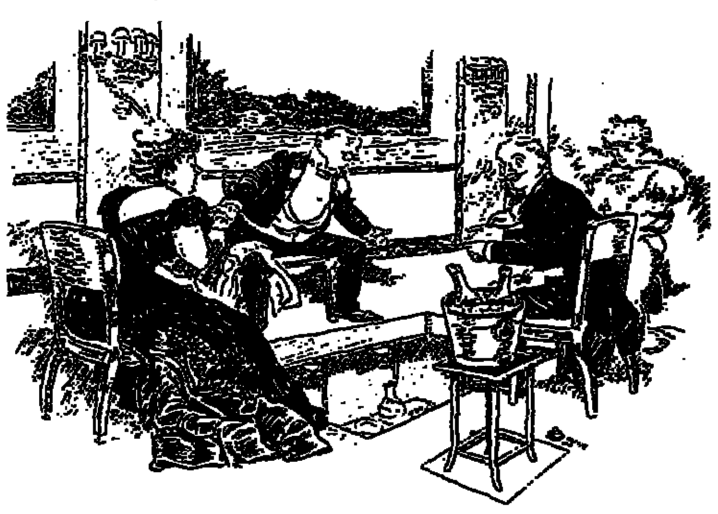
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions *on* a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 49, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries *is* Wednesday, April 30.





"We've just taken on a splendid new butler who goes by the name Swampy"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by S.Williams of Thelwall, Cheshire

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SHILLING'S ORIFICE
a. Toad-in-the hole
b. *A slot machine*
c. *Part of a carburettor*

UROPHYSIS
a. Nuclear sickness
b. A lump in fish
c. An EU study

KWANGA
a. A small animal
b. Native bread
c. A dance

KOWHAI
a. A small shrub
b. A chimney cap
c. Obeisance

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

ONE OF the bridge classics, *Adventures in Card Play* by Géza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey, has just been reissued (£12.99, Master Bridge Series). *It is full of* intriguing and fascinating deals. But be warned — it is not easy reading and the coups have little relevance to day-to-day play. This is *one of the* easier hands.

♠A 10
♥Q 9 8 2
♦10 4 2
♣7 6 5 2

West: ♠9 8 2 ♥10 8 4 3 ♦7 3 ♣K Q 10 8
East: ♠Q J 7 5 3 ♥K 7 ♦K 9 6 5 ♣A 3

♠K 6 4
♥A J 5
♦A Q J 8
♣J 9 4

Contract: 3NT by South.
Lead: king of clubs

East opens One Spade and South becomes the declarer in 3NT. East overtakes the king of clubs and the defence take their four tricks in the suit. East discarding two spades and South one. Now West switches to the nine of spades. Do you see what is going on?

Declarer has only one sure entry to dummy, and he needs to finesse in both diamonds and hearts. So to generate a second entry to dummy, *he has to assume that East has the* doubleton king of hearts.

Thus a reasonable practical line would be to win the spade in dummy (playing low from hand), *finesse the jack of hearts* and lay down the ace. Re-enter dummy with the marked finesse of the nine of hearts, and lead the ten of diamonds hoping that East started *with three of the suit. That* approach fails when East is 5-4 in spades and diamonds. But noticing that you never cashed the fourth heart trick may give you the clue to the best line. When you win the first round of spades with the ace you *unblock the king from your hand* — a typical Ottlik manoeuvre. You can afford that, as your assumption about the hearts means you can throw your small spade before running the ten of diamonds.

See what develops. After three *rounds of hearts (East discarding* the jack of spades), this is the position, with the lead in dummy:

♠10
♥Q
♦10 4 2
♣-

West: ♠8 2 ♥10 ♦7 3 ♣-
East: ♠Q ♥- ♦K 9 6 5 ♣-

♠6
♥-
♦A Q J 8
♣-

You play off the queen of hearts, with the idea of discarding the six *of spades and running the ten of* diamonds, as before hoping East has a 6-2-3-2 shape. But something dramatic happens — East is in *trouble, and eventually* discards the queen of spades.

Now you discard a diamond from hand, finesse a diamond, and cross back to the ten of spades to take the last two tricks via another diamond finesse. You have brought off a coup which Ottlik named an "entry squeeze".

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THE green-fingered are not particularly well catered for by *software* houses. Although there are a few, mostly budget, titles around which allow you to design and lay out *your garden — and even take a* whizz through the finished plans or view the results in different seasons — that's about all.

Since laying out a garden is one of the more fundamental projects to tackle, such design packages rarely come in for heavy use. One of the few gardening exceptions in the barren *wilderness is* **Perfect Plants**, from Macmillan Interactive Publishing. This Windows CD-Rom is a guide to the selection and care of 2,000 plants, including *shrubs, trees, roses, perennials,* bulbs and annuals.

This indoor gardening tool is presented by Roger Phillips, of Channel 4's *The 3,000 Mile Garden*, and the botanist Martyn Rix. There are more than 2,700 pictures of plants in their natural habitat or laid out for easy identification, *and each section is* organised for easy reference.

The Plant Searcher option lets you choose trees by size and roses *by genres or colours, and so on. The most redundant option* is Browsing Plants, in which you can *select any of the plant pictures and set them to a slide show* with accompanying music. The Plant Care Movie is an instructional video, covering *everything from pruning* shrubs in July to camellia shaping in February, and the ABC Plant Index is a comprehensive search engine of every plant featured, listed by Latin and common names.

Its a handy guide for most keen gardeners as well as a good *introduction for those* who do not know their wheelbarrow from their elbow. Should you encounter problems tracking down a copy, *call MIP on 0345 697008.*

Our latest competition, **Cyberspace Thirty-One**, has reaped its own golden harvest *of entries. You were asked to* review a game of your choice and for disappointed Daniel Garner of Nuneaton it was the Red Alert add-on, **Counterstrike**, from Westwood *Studios.*

"There is no doubt that Red Alert is one of the great games, so I expected much more from *Counterstrike*," he wrote. "The upgrade has 15 new missions and new military units. But the new missions do not impress and equally disappointing are the new units. Searching the levels I found a mission with Lightning Tanks but *they were* actually Radar Trucks, from the original Red Alert.

"When one truck sent an arc of lightning towards the enemy I concluded *that Westwood had* merely messed around with the original programming code in*stead of producing a genuine* upgrade to the game."

Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, gave his low-down of all three **Dungeons & Dragons** *titles in the Eye of the Beholder series. He decided that they* were past their sell-by dates. "The original Eye of the *Beholder gives the best game* play but it is showing its age," he wrote. "The original title did give me several weeks of pleasure although the end of *the game is a real turn off.*

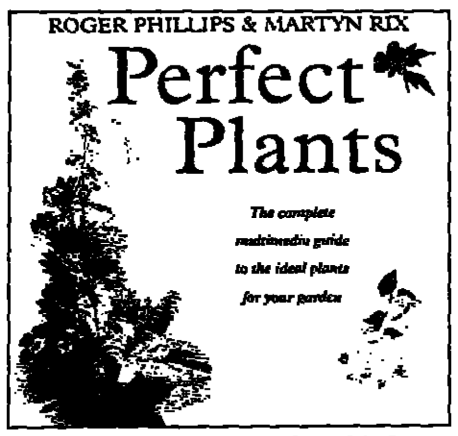
"The follow-up, **Legend of Darkmoon**, was an improvement with better screens, *story and game play although, once more, a poor ending.* Still, it remains my favourite of the trilogy. The third instalment, **Assault on *Myth Drannor***, was better still but somewhat obscure to play and I had to track down hints on the Internet to solve some of the problems. These are classic games but they are now *in dire need of* updating," he concluded.

A-level student Catriana Kathaus of Northumberland takes *to the slopes for her relaxation, in* Microsoft's **Skifree**. "You get the exhilaration of downhill skiing on *the Alps without fog, wind or the* need to apply sun-block," she enthused. "Like any Alpine resort, the piste is extremely busy. Dogs *trot in front of you and learners plough around oblivious to others.* I frequently end up splattered against a rock.

"The idea is to soar over the *jumps, each worth one point. But if* a snowboarder collides with you then you get 100 points — and a sore head. The skill of the game, therefore, is manoeuvring the skier *into the path of a snowboarder.* The graphics are simple and, sadly, there is no sound. But for a fun and easy game it's unbeatable."

Next week *more entries* and, still *to come, news of our overall winner* who will pick up a luxury weekend for two in Rome. Keep your ideas — and Top Tips — coming to the usual address.

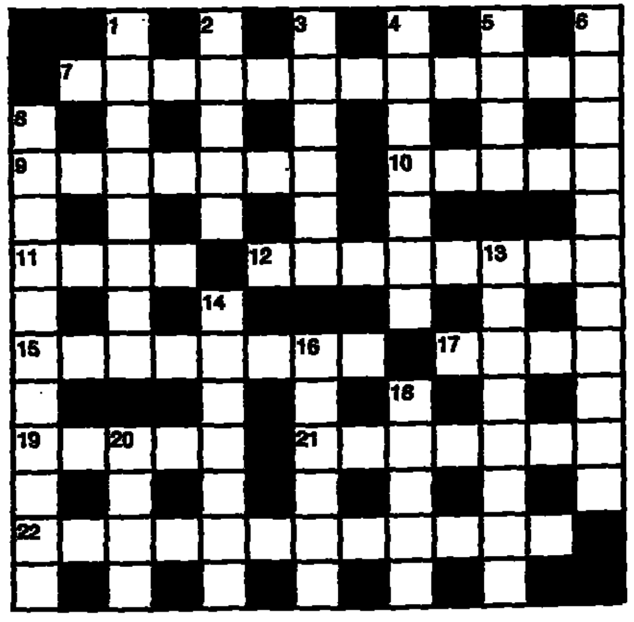
This week's Top Tip, winning him a Microsoft title, comes from Dennis Hemmings of Paignton, *Devon: "Should you have computer booting problems while in* Germany, take care to explain that you need your 'DOS Boot' fixed. If you say 'DAS Boot' you could get *an epic-length video about a German submarine crew* during the Second World War."



ROGER PHILLIPS & MARTYN RIX
Perfect Plants
The complete multimedia guide to the ideal plants for your garden

Perfect Plants is a handy guide for keen gardeners and beginners

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1078

ACROSS
7 Sistine ceiling painter (12)
9 Mouth of Seine port (2,5)
10 Put down hard: cheap wine (5)
11,17 Prosperous (4-2-2)
12 Lycanthrope (8)
15 Next prime after seventeen (8)
17 Fuss (2-2)
19 *Roman prophetess* (5)
21 Auburn person (7)
22 Out of date (3-9)

DOWN
1 Tyre pioneer; food guide (8)
2 Push rudely (5)
3 Part of jacket: protective wrapper (6)
4 Fish; photographer? (7)
5 Prohibition (4)
6 Libretto (4,2,5)
8 Explode with rage (4,4,3)
13 Distance-measurer: *rode to me (anag.)* (8)
14 Of stars (7)
16 Of the soil: rather crude (6)
18 "(Life,) a tale told by an —" *(Macbeth)* (5)
20 *Portend* (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1077

ACROSS: *1 Beget 4 Beatnik 8 For toffee* 9 Coy 10 Tram 11 Penitent 13 Bleary 14 Bang on 17 Taj Mahal 19 Glib 22 Hal 23 Forsaking 24 Royal *We* 25 Bigot

DOWN: 1 Befit 2 Germane *3 Thou 4 Buffer* 5 American 6 Niche 7 Krypton 12 Dreadful 13 Butcher 15 Galling 16 Barrie 18 Jelly 20 Bight 21 Daub

PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. (£1=US$ 1.65).

TIMES CROSSWORDS: - Books 10,11,12,13 £3.99 each. *The Times Concise* - Book 2 (240 puzzles) £5.99, *Crossword Solver's Dictionary* £11.95 (UK only). Crossword Manual £9.99 Collins Roget's International Thesaurus £22.99 (UK only) The 2nd Omnibus Book of The Times Crosswords. The Third Book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Cryptic) £4.99 each. The Times Night Sky 1997 £3.50. NEW: The Times Two Crosswords Book 6 £2.99.

TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 diskette (circa 60 crosswords each, *solo/team* facility and optional HELP levels). Includes: Times Crosswords (1/8 - Omnibus 1 & 2 (2 - 2). The Times Concise (4) The Times Two (5) —The Times Jubilee Edition 1932-87 (1). *(Brackets denote number of diskettes)*

Prices per title/diskette:	1	2	Additional disks	*Please specify*
IBM MS-DOS and Acorn RISC Os	£10.25	£14.99	£5 each	(inc VAT)
NEW Windows version for IBM PCs	£15.00	£22.00	£8 each	

Send cheques with order payable to **Akom Ltd**, 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24hrs). No credit cards. Delivery in 8 days

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3407: Casting Out Nines by Oyler

THE FOLLOWING *statements* about the numbers 1 to 45 are also true of their respective lights. Solvers must note that the digit sums referred to have been reduced to a single digit. No number starts with zero and all the numbers are different.

Only 1, 4, 10, 17, 27 and 40 are perfect squares.

Only 1, *8* and 30 are perfect cubes.

Only 1 and 17 are perfect fourth powers.

Only 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 25, 32, 34, 41 and 45 are prime numbers.

Only 11, 22, 33 and 44 are *palindromes.*

2<3<4<7<15<35<37<45

5<41<42.

Digit sum of 6 = *digit sum of 24 = 6.*

7<34<38<44

Digit sum of 7 = digit sum of 34 = 7

Digit sum of 10 = 1.

Digit sum of 11 = digit sum of 20.

13<17.

Digit sum of 13 = digit sum of 22.

14<22<25.

15<32.

Digit sum of 15 is even.

16 = 5 + 5 + 5.

21<26<31.

24 is a *multiple* of 12.

27 = 1 + 26.

28 = 5 + 23.

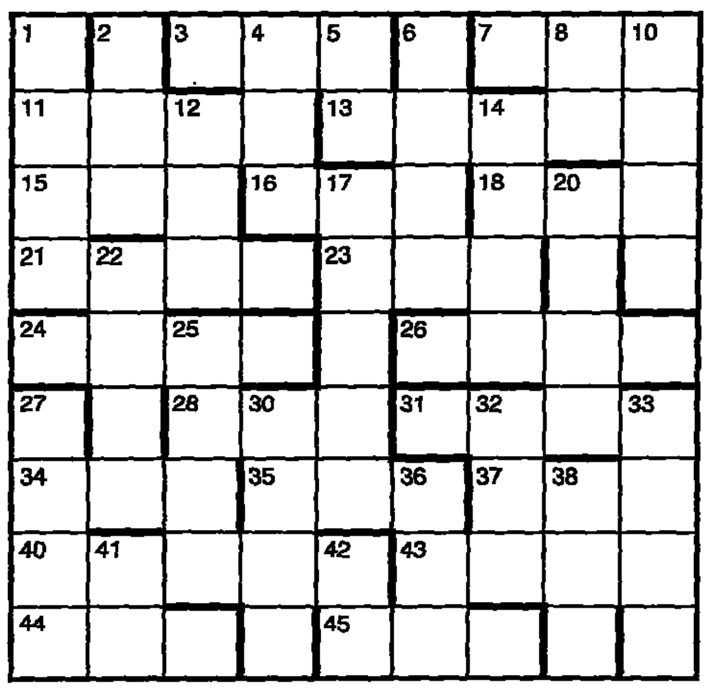
31 = 7 + 7 + 7 + 7.

35 = 16 + 18.

36 = 12 + 12 + 12.

Digit sum of *36 = digit sum of 45.*

43 = 6 + 7 + 28.

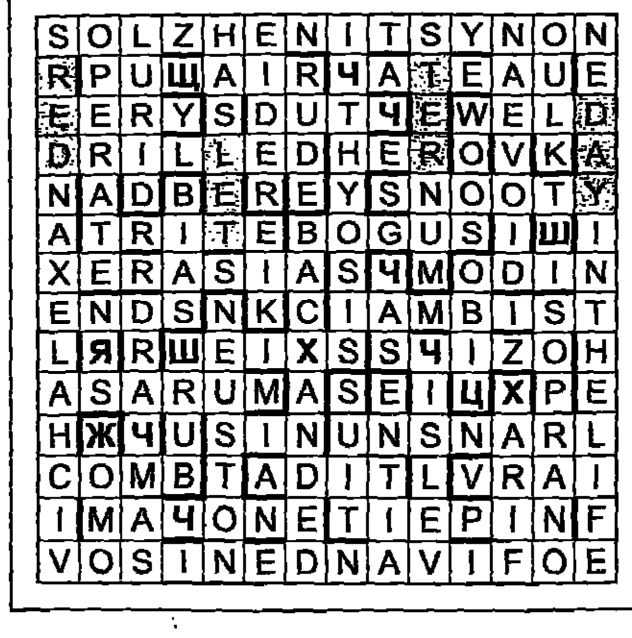


LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3407
in association with Waterstone's

NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
....
....

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3407, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, May 8.

STATISTICS relating to 1996 crosswords, including personal record, are now available to senders of an SAE (from overseas, stamp exempt), at least 220mm x 110mm, to J.E. Green, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Herts AL3 6HE. It would be helpful if applications could be kept separate from current puzzle submissions.



S	O	L	Z	H	E	N	I	T	S	Y	N	O	N
R	P	U	Щ	A	I	R	Ч	A	T	E	A	U	E
E	E	R	Y	S	D	U	T	Ч	E	W	E	L	D
D	R	I	L	L	E	D	H	E	R	O	V	K	A
N	A	D	B	E	R	E	Y	S	N	O	O	T	Y
A	T	R	I	T	E	B	O	G	U	S	I	Ш	I
X	E	R	A	S	I	A	S	Ч	M	O	D	I	N
E	N	D	S	N	K	C	I	A	M	B	I	S	T
L	Я	R	Ш	E	I	X	S	S	Ч	I	Z	O	H
A	S	A	R	U	M	A	S	E	I	Ц	X	P	E
H	Ж	Ч	U	S	I	N	U	N	S	N	A	R	L
C	O	M	B	T	A	D	I	T	L	V	R	A	I
I	M	A	Ч	O	N	E	T	I	E	P	I	N	F
V	O	S	I	N	E	D	N	A	V	I	F	O	E

Solution to No 3404
Memorable Occasion by Monk

Peripheral squares: "ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN, ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH" (title), commencing at first square of 35 across: spelling in ODQ4

Extra letters: Also starting with 35 across, spell out "SHADED SQUARES SUGGEST HOW FOURTEEN SQUARES MUST BE FILLED"

Shaded squares: Spell out "RED LETTER DAY" (title). There were 14 squares in clued lights where a compound "RED" LETTER ie. a Russian alphabet character *had to be used.*

The winner is: R. Noskwith of Sandiacre, Nottinghamshire. The five runners-up are: Joan Floyd of Saint-Amand-Montrand, France; *A&M Hodges of Bolton,* Lancashire; Nick Brown of Belfast; M. Wilson and C.Taggart of Cardiff; Derrick Knight of Newark, Nottinghamshire.

WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five *runners-up* will each receive a book token worth £10

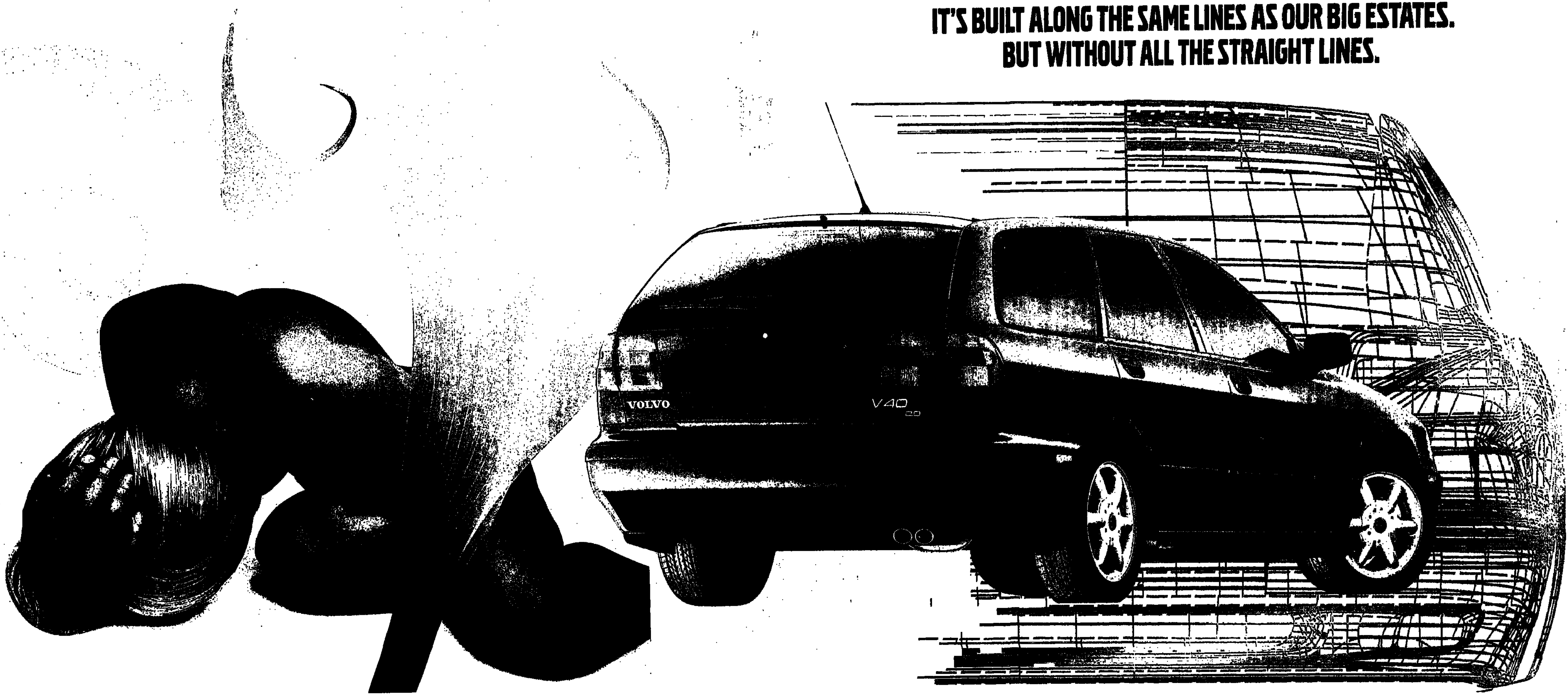
Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 *titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print* Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.

Re
of t
bo
ag
bik
Page

Is it written in st

Karting champ

Wo


IT'S BUILT ALONG THE SAME LINES AS OUR BIG ESTATES.
BUT WITHOUT ALL THE STRAIGHT LINES.
VOLVO
V40

Introducing the Volvo V40. It's roomy, like the big estates. (There's 50 cubic feet of luggage space, and you can even fold the front passenger seat flat.) It's safe, like the big estates. (The V40 has SIPS with side airbags, driver's airbag and ABS brakes.) It's even surprisingly quick, just like the big estates (0-62 takes just 9.3 seconds in the 16 valve 2 litre model.) But the V40 has one thing the big estates don't have. Curves. The Italians, who know a thing or two about car design, recently voted it 'the most beautiful estate in the world'†. And who are we to argue? The V40 from Volvo. It's smaller, but it's perfectly formed. From £15,620 to £19,920 on the road. Or from £290 per month via Volvo Contract Hire.* **VOLVO. A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.**

VOLVO
V40

†LE GRANDI AUTOMOBILI MAGAZINE 1996. *CONTRACT HIRE MONTHLY RATE EXCLUDES VAT AND IS BASED ON 3 YEARS / 36,000 MILES WITH MAINTENANCE CONTRACT - FOR BUSINESS USERS ONLY. FULL WRITTEN DETAILS FROM VOLVO CAR FINANCE LTD, GLOBE PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 1YQ. CAR FEATURED VOLVO V40 2.0 WITH HANDLING PACK AND METALLIC PAINT £17,250 ON THE ROAD (INCL. DELIVERY AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE). THE V40 RANGE FROM £15,620 TO £19,920 ON THE ROAD (INCL. DELIVERY AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE). ALL PRICES AND [illegible] INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE [illegible] 11 40 40 OR WRITE TO FREEPOST VOLVO. http://www.[illegible].co.uk

هكذا من الاصل

Return of the born again biker

Page 3

THE TIMES
CAR 97

Putting the MG's history back on the map

Page 5

SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

Is it written in stone that Formula One is for men only? **Helen Mound** reports on research into the question

MIKE WILKINSON

Karting champion Charis Kaps, right, is determined to persevere with her racing career, but in the 46-year history of the world drivers' championship only a handful of women have competed

Women in the outside lane

No sport is more steeped in machismo than motor racing, and Formula One is the pinnacle of this male-dominated arena. Every winner is a man's man and the idea of a woman world champion seems unthinkable. But why? For karting champion Charis Kaps, 12, who might just be the girl to change all that, the answer is vital.

In the 46-year history of the world drivers' championship only a handful of women have competed and only two have ever completed races. Their collective success amounts to just one half of a point.

Now the RAC Motorsport Association has commissioned Judy Eaton, a psychology lecturer at Coventry University, to find out why there is such a low level of female participation in motorsport.

"Only 2 per cent of competitive motorsport licence holders in Britain are women," says Dr Eaton. "The RAC wants to find out why this is and encourage more women into the sport."

Over the next 18 months Dr Eaton's research will examine the social and psychological barriers faced by women in motor racing. She recently completed preliminary interviews with females aged 12 to 40, who either have raced or are currently competing.

International rally driving champion, Louise Aitken-Walker, who retired from rallying to look after her children four years ago, is well aware of the barriers. Despite her own success, she doubts there will be a successful British female Formula One driver in her lifetime. She is probably right unless women can overcome some of the problems already revealed by Dr Eaton's research.

Murray Walker, veteran grand prix commentator, agrees with Aitken-Walker's rather gloomy view: "Women tend not to be strong enough or aggressive enough."

Gavin Kelsey, operations director of the Jim Russell Racing School, where about 20 per cent of pupils are women, is a bit more optimistic: "I hope so. But what's missing is a good role model to encourage them to compete." But Matt Franey, deputy editor of *Autosport* says: "The odds are stacked against them because there are so few competing." And even Nicola Foulston, chief executive of Brands Hatch, a woman who has succeeded in the administrative side of this male-dominated field says: "No. There aren't many determined enough."

Forty per cent of youngsters aged eight to 12 in karting — the first step into a motor racing career — are girls. But as they get older and the sport gets more professional, the number of women competing reduces dramatically.

"These young women are being turned off motor racing either by the physical changes they experience or peer pressure and a need to fit in with other teenagers," claims Dr Eaton. She feels the key to increasing the number of women who remain in racing through their teens is to make motorsport more acceptable to girls at an early age.

Among the older age group, Dr Eaton found the problem isn't that women give up but that they feel forced out. "Many talk of being pushed off the track, receiving excessive scrutineering because male competitors insist they're cheating, or facing verbal abuse." The majority also complain of being discouraged by the lack of finances.

Aitken-Walker agrees that money is a major factor: "It's very difficult for women to be taken seriously in any form of motorsport. They need to show real determination to convince the male managers they're not wasting money."

The next step in the research will be to ascertain what attracts certain girls to motor racing in the first place and how that motivation can be maintained.

"One definite feeling is that women don't want girl-only events. Whether it's possible for them to compete at the same level as men all the way through to Formula One has yet to be proved, but that's what the women want."

There are currently a handful of female co-drivers in World Championship Rallying, and in the early 1980s Michele Mouton of France became extremely successful at world level, beating many respected male drivers, but she remains an exception.

The research has included interviewing parents or partners of female competitors to gauge the support they receive. Dr Eaton points to the support World Formula One Champion Nigel Mansell received from his family as a possible element to success. "He sold his house to help finance his racing career, he will have needed his family behind him to achieve that. Perhaps if more women had friends and family that believed in their abilities as passionately they would stay in the sport."

Dr Eaton, who has raced herself and runs her own racing kart, accepts that most sports have gender role expectations — "Boys play football, girls play hockey" — but she hopes her research will reveal ways to make motorsport more attractive to women. Perhaps then Britain will see its first champion female Formula One driver.

To help compare women's role in motorsport, Coventry University now wants to interview aspiring male racing drivers aged 12-40. Please call 01203 838739.

Triers: Maria-Teresa de Filippis, above: Divina Galica, right: and Lella Lombardi, far right

You can count them on one hand . . .

■ THE ONLY British female contender in Formula One was Divina Galica. She entered the 1976 British Grand Prix and the Argentinian and Brazilian events in 1978, but failed to qualify in any. In 1975, Lella Lombardi became the only woman to score in the Formula One drivers' championship. She was competing in the Spanish Grand Prix which was stopped, automatically granting entrants a half point.

The first woman to contest a World Chamionship Grand Prix was the Italian Maria-Teresa de Filippis, who entered five races in 1958-59, qualified for three and finished one, the 1958 Belgian Grand Prix in 10th place in a Maserati 250F. In 1980 Desiré Wilson from South Africa attempted to drive in the British Grand Prix but failed to qualify. And the most recent woman to compete in Formula One was Giovanna Amati who in 1992 entered the South African, Mexican and Brazilian grands prix in a Brabham but failed to qualify for any of them.

Charis's career hits the brakes

Charis Kaps, from Darlington, has been racing since she was eight and has shown real promise. Now, at 12, her racing career is in jeopardy.

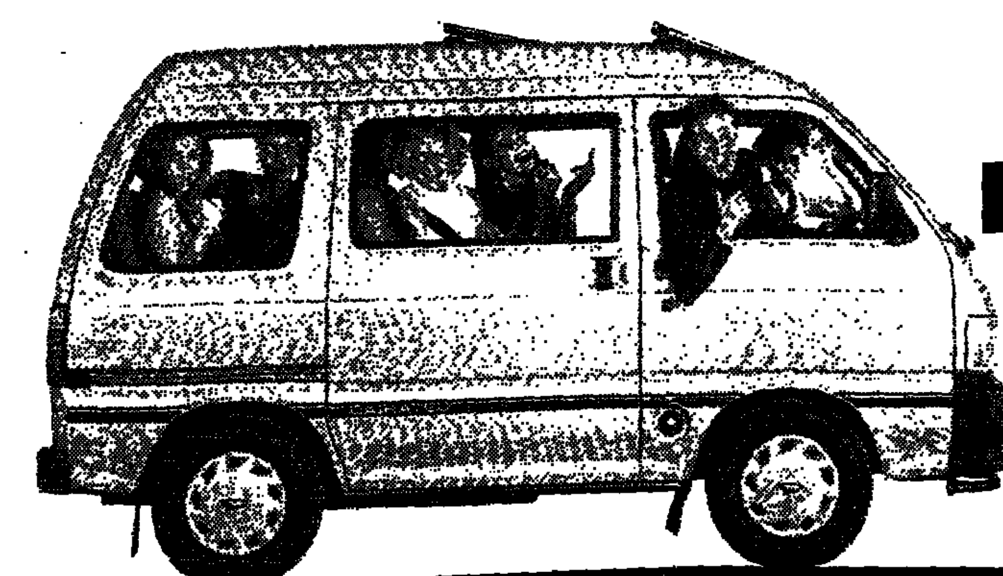
She can continue to race in the eight to 12 group until the end of the year, but already she's being slowed down because she is 10 kilos over the recommended weight — and growing.

Next year she will join the 12 to 16-year-old group where, although she will benefit from being lighter than the older competitors, she will be disadvantaged by sheer lack of strength. This is the time when Dr Eaton believes the majority of girls give up.

In addition to the physical changes a young girl experiences as she starts her teens, Charis's friends could put her off her sport or boyfriends could be distracting or destructively jealous. And by the time she reaches 15 or 16, she will need a greater level of strength and stamina than the average teenage girl to compete against the boys.

Her father, Ed Kaps, insists she has got what it takes to stick it out, but is concerned how she will cope competing against 16-year-old boys: "She's a strong girl but she's going to have to work hard to beat some of the older boys."

But Charis is determined to persevere. Her impressive exercise routine benefits from her membership of the Sea Scouts and playing for her school's football and swimming teams. It's no surprise that she was voted "Sportswoman of the Year" by her school.



Picks up five times more women than a Lamborghini.

Forget your Italian racers. This little babe-magnet is the Daihatsu Hijet MPV. Don't laugh. It packs in six comfortable seats. A five speed gear box. Two sun roofs. Even a 3 year/60,000 mile warranty. But what really makes the Hijet MPV so attractive? The £167,503 change from a Lamborghini of course. Our price is just £8,800 on the road. **For more information call us on 0800 521 700.**

DAIHATSU

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES.

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES VAT, DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE. EACH VEHICLE OF THIS MODEL IS A PASSENGER CONVERSION OF A HIJET REGISTERED AS A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE.

T3MMPV

ALONG THE SAME LINES AS OUR BIG ESTATES.

The RAC, primarily an organisation for motorists, is sounding far more radical on the subject of transport than any of the parties seeking our votes

Now it's the Royal All-transport Club

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

New Labour, new RAC. New logo, new colour for breakdown vans, even a new bicycle on the market. Whatever is going on at the Royal Automobile Club, that defender of the right to drive, campaigner for better roads, safer roads, more roads? Something good as it happens.

There has been a certain amount of spluttering from the Luddites since the RAC announcement that it was updating its image and shifting the emphasis of its work to encourage a broader approach to transport. The Association of British Motorists, for one, is upset, but they would be, wouldn't they?

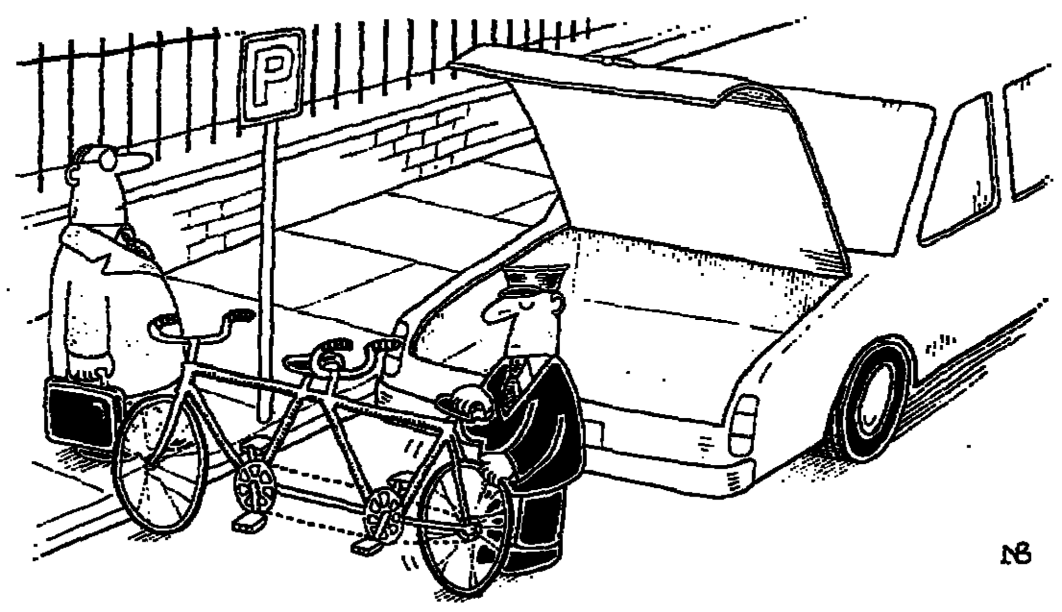
As a member of the RAC, I must declare an interest and I am sure from speaking to its members that the AA is an excellent organisation: this is a market where all of us want to see healthy competition. The RAC move is a bold one and deserves to be encouraged.

Some details of the RAC changes show real imagination, others are long overdue. In the latter category comes the £25 discount for members who do not use the breakdown service in a given year, effectively a no-claims bonus. This should have been introduced years ago.

Chief executive Neil Johnson wants to give the values of the RAC, established 100 years ago, "a 21st-century look. Our members are not just motorists. They also cycle, walk and use public transport." Well yes, but as General Alexander Haig was fond of saying, I would have to caveat that.

Certainly the launch of the RAC's all-purpose bicycle, designed to be folded up and stowed in the boot so that drivers have two forms of transport to get where they are going, is an innovative idea — though there are plenty of other fold-up bikes around.

But my mention of New Labour was not merely a tenuous linking mechanism. If there is a change of government next week, I see little sign from the Labour manifesto of any radical change in transport policy. Indeed, there is an irony in the fact that the RAC, primarily an organisation for motorists, is sounding far more radical on the subject of transport than any of the parties seeking our votes.



What I do find encouraging is that we now have a motoring lobby which is, presumably, prepared to tread the polished stone floors of Whitehall on behalf of all travellers, including drivers but not excluding cyclists, walkers, bus and train passengers.

There is also the intriguing prospect of the militant bicycle lobby, whose "reclaim the roads" demonstrations have caused traffic chaos in recent times, finding itself outflanked by an organisation that has represented everything they oppose.

I note that the RAC is now soliciting non-motoring members. Obviously this includes cyclists, who may well decide that their interests are better served by the experienced lobbyists of the RAC than by the diverse organisations that now represent them. Cyclists and drivers united in common cause? The mind boggles.

I do not take the cynical view that the RAC's conversion to a wider cause is simply a drive for more members. But it knows as well as the rest of us that something has to happen at the centre of power before the commonality of interest between all transport users elicits a real change in the quality of travel.

The activities of the IRA have shown just how easily gridlock can be caused, but such aberrations can disguise the fact that the absence of an integrated transport policy will cause near-permanent gridlock within a decade. There will come a time, unless things change, when we shall do the IRA's dirty work for them.

DRIVERS who need spectacles should watch out if they are heading for Devon and Cornwall on holiday where police are making random checks on eyesight, using the usual numberplate at 20 metres test. I hear they are not amused, or swayed, by the people with spectacles in the glove compartment who are not actually wearing them.

A crook to lock out car thieves

When a security firm wanted expert advice they advertised for a criminal, says

Eve-Ann Prentice

CARL RUTHERFORD

Anonymous "Mr Toad" can strip a car to the bone in less than four hours and claims to be able to drive anything from motorcycles to juggernauts

Competition for the car crime consultancy job was stiff but the applicant's credentials were perfect. Vegetarian, a non-smoker and teetotal, the man from the North-East had 25 years' experience — as a car thief.

This week the man, who wants to remain anonymous, began work as crime fighter consultant to the car security company, Toad Innovations. He is also trying to establish his own consultancy business, having persuaded the police and his new employers that he "retired" from his life of crime three years ago.

The road to thieving began when the man, whom we shall call Mr Toad, was just 12 years old. "I didn't attend school very often, but sometimes illegally drove myself there," he said last week. His education in what became his chosen field for the next quarter of a century was prison.

"My first prison sentence was in 1982 and it secured my criminal career. So many connections made, so many ideas, prison is the school for crime," he says. "I was the victim of a broken home and received little or no parental guidance, soon drifting into crime and a first conviction at the age of 14."

Despite his quarter of a century as a car thief, during which crime was his main source of income, Mr Toad received just two jail sentences, one for 12 months and the second for nine months. He was never caught red-handed.

He says that he can strip a car to the bone in less than four hours and claims to be able to drive any vehicle from motorcycles to boats, cars, agricultural machinery and juggernauts.

Toad Innovations, based in Cambridge, advertised for a reformed, convicted ex-car thief in February and received dozens of replies from across the country, including applications for the consultancy job from two people who are still in prison.

"We are not seeking hi-tech information as much as psychological insight into the mind of the car criminal," said Kevin Gray, Toad's Chief Executive. The company produces a range of anti-theft devices including an anti-smash window film, a miniature in-car camera and a non-toxic smoke which fills cars after they are broken into.

> 'I've been to crime seminars organised by the police and they were useless'

Toad's new consultant says he is a loner and that is one key reason he was so rarely caught during his criminal career. "Not many people knew what I was doing. I have a few friends, but they don't yet know about my new job," he says. "I am not a person who mixes a lot."

The reformed criminal currently owns a Range Rover, "but I know it will never be stolen", he adds. "The big thing is where the security systems are installed, not necessarily what they are. Toad has some good stuff, though. I was quite impressed."

Is he repentant now about the people from whom he stole in the past? "There are things I would never do and I think house burglars are the lowest of the low," he says. "I have on occasion returned property I have taken. If something was obviously personal it was not unknown for me to to stick it in a bin bag and throw it over a person's garden wall the next time I happened to be passing."

The new consultant is also scathing about the prison system. "The short, sharp shock is not short enough," he says. "For the first two days you are inside it is such a shock you vow that, if you ever get out, you will never do anything wrong again and you mean it.

"But after the third day you start to fit in and people who are inside for insurance offences or having no tax disc become part of the criminal fraternity and realise that that can be their life from then on. It doesn't take Einstein to understand what prison does to you."

The reformed thief believes he can be especially helpful to Toad Innovations because he understands the mechanics of cars — and because he understands the criminal mind. "I have been to one or two crime seminars organised by the police and they were useless. The police just don't have the same way of thinking."

They may not have the same way of thinking, but a reduction in vehicle crime has contributed significantly to an overall fall in the crime figures for the past four years.

According to details published last month, 1.29 million vehicle crimes were reported to police in 1996, a 2.2 per cent fall from the 1.32 million in 1995. Thefts from vehicles were down by 13,600 or 2 per cent and thefts of vehicles were reduced by 15,100 or 3 per cent.

This is thought to be due partly to much more security consciousness on the part of both motorists and manufacturers. Alarms and immobilisers have become major selling points. Stepped up police campaigns against car crime also seem to be having a deterrent effect with some forces investing in technology such as the "stinger" device imported from the United States, which can be deployed to stop a stolen car without the danger of a police chase.

For information on Toad Innovation's products call 01223 214555.

TOAD'S TIPS

- *Fit an alarm or immobiliser.*
- Park in a well-lit place at night.
- Keep car keys well hidden at home. Thieves are increasingly entering homes to obtain keys.
- Try to park in the centre of car parks.
- *Park near active* places such as shopfronts and offices.
- Remove car keys at petrol stations — where 20,000 car thefts a year occur.
- Be aware that if thieves see you park outside a cinema or *station they know you* are likely to be gone for some hours.

A police stinger device to stop stolen vehicles safely

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular Road) *over the Lea Valley viaduct.*
A11 Leytonstone. Major roadworks at the Green Man *roundabout (A12, A114).* Expect delays on all approaches.
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic for structural works. Expect congestion on both sides of the river.
A5 Kilburn High Road. Reduced to one lane both ways, with no right turn into Belsize Road.
A3 Kingston bypass. *Northbound lane closure* between Shannon Corner (A298) and Coombe Lane *junction (A238) for work on* Carters Bridge.
A205 Wandsworth. *Roadworks on* Upper Richmond Road between Daylesford Avenue and West Hill. Various restrictions between 9.30am and 3.30pm.
B317 West Kensington. North End Raod closed Northbound from Edith Road to the A4, with one-way traffic southbound. Expect heavy congestion.

● SOUTH-EAST
A413 Wendover bypass, Buckinghamshire. Construction work for new bypass. Restrictions on local roads and Ellesborough Road is closed.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A130 Sandon, Essex. Roadworks on Southend Road *at the Gingerbread Hall* bridge, with width restrictions.
A41 Watford, Hertfordshire. *Lane closed eastbound on* North Western Avenue from the Hunton Bridge roundabout to the Leavesden Green interchange.
M20 Kent. Long-term roadworks at junction 4 (West Malling). Various lane closures on the slip road.
M25 Surrey. Various restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and the A3.

● SOUTH-WEST
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph limit.
A30 near Penzance, Cornwall. Temporary lights for water main work at Crowlas. Long delays throughout the day.
A31 *near Ferndown,* Dorset. Roadworks at Canford Bottom, with lane closures on roundabout.
M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at the roundabout junction with the A419. Expect peak-time delays joining or leaving the M5.
A40 *Cheltenham,* Gloucestershire. Temporary lights for roadworks on *London Road at the Holy* Apostles Junction.
A38 Bridgwater. Gas main work on Bristol Road.

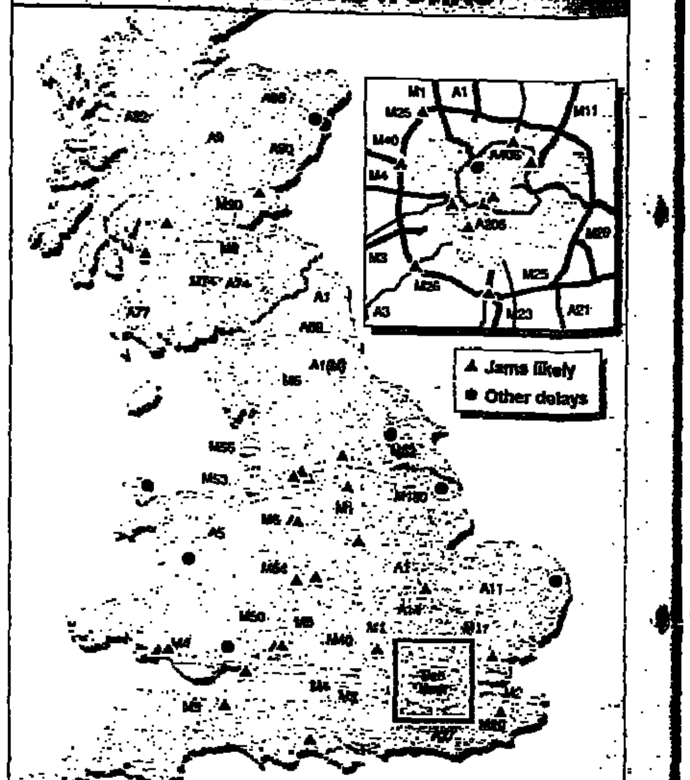
● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
A1 *Alconbury,* Cambridgeshire. Reduced to one lane northbound *during maintenance work at* Alconbury Hills.
A6 Lockington, Leicestershire. Temporary lights between M1 J24 and Sawley Island during construction of the Derby Southern bypass.
A1064 Acle Way bridge, Norfolk. Maintenance work is in place at the bridge.
A500 Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Contraflow on the D road, with only one lane open each way between Talke (A34) and Longport *(A527 Porthill).*
A50 Stoke-on-Trent. Major construction work at Meir. *Long peak-time delays.*
M6 West Midlands. Slip road from Salford Circus to the *M6 north* closed.

● NORTH
A627 Bardsley, Greater Manchester. Roadworks on Ashton Road at junction with Keb Lane.
A572 *Swinton, Greater* Manchester. Worsley Road closed for sewer work.
Blackley, *Greater* Manchester. Construction work on the M66 extension *at the junction of Rochdale* Road, Manchester New Road and Victoria Avenue.
M1 West Yorkshire. Major roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621, and Dewsbury Road.

● WALES
A483 Fabian Way, Swansea. *Lane closures both* ways near the Dock entrance on main dual carriageway into Swansea from the M4.
A4067 Mumbles Road, Swansea. Major roadworks between Sketty Lane and the rugby ground.
A472 Pontypool, Torfaen. Contraflow between Pontymoile and the Heron roundabout.

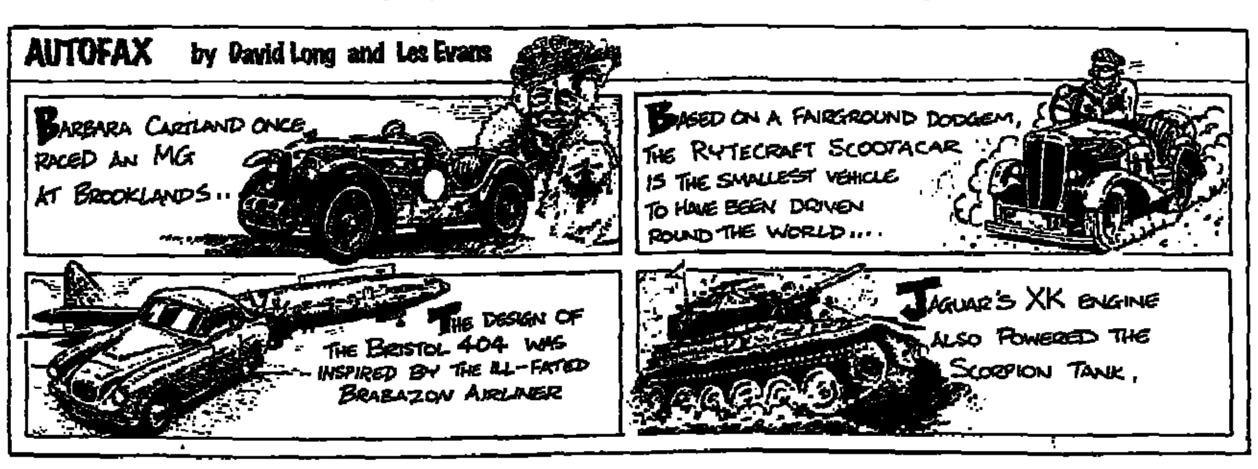
● SCOTLAND
Aberdeen. Queen Elizabeth Bridge closed southbound for roadworks. Signposted diversions via Victoria Bridge and Menzies Road.
A737 near Beith, North Ayrshire. Temporary lights *between the Roadhead* roundabout and Beith.
A90 between Dundee and Perth. Reduced to *one lane* both ways between Inchyra and Kinfauns. Expect delays.
M8 Renfrewshire. One lane both ways at junction 30 (Erskine Spur, M898).

MAJOR ROADWORKS



"Where can I sell something fast?"
See p. 8

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans


BARBARA CARTLAND ONCE RACED AN MG AT BROOKLANDS..
BASED ON A FAIRGROUND DODGEM, THE RYTECRAFT SCOOTACAR IS THE SMALLEST VEHICLE TO HAVE BEEN DRIVEN ROUND THE WORLD...
THE DESIGN OF THE BRISTOL 404 WAS INSPIRED BY THE ILL-FATED BRABAZON AIRLINER
JAGUAR'S XK ENGINE ALSO POWERED THE SCORPION TANK,

مكتبة من الاهرام

Yorkshireman's champion return

RUDI BRANDSTAETTER

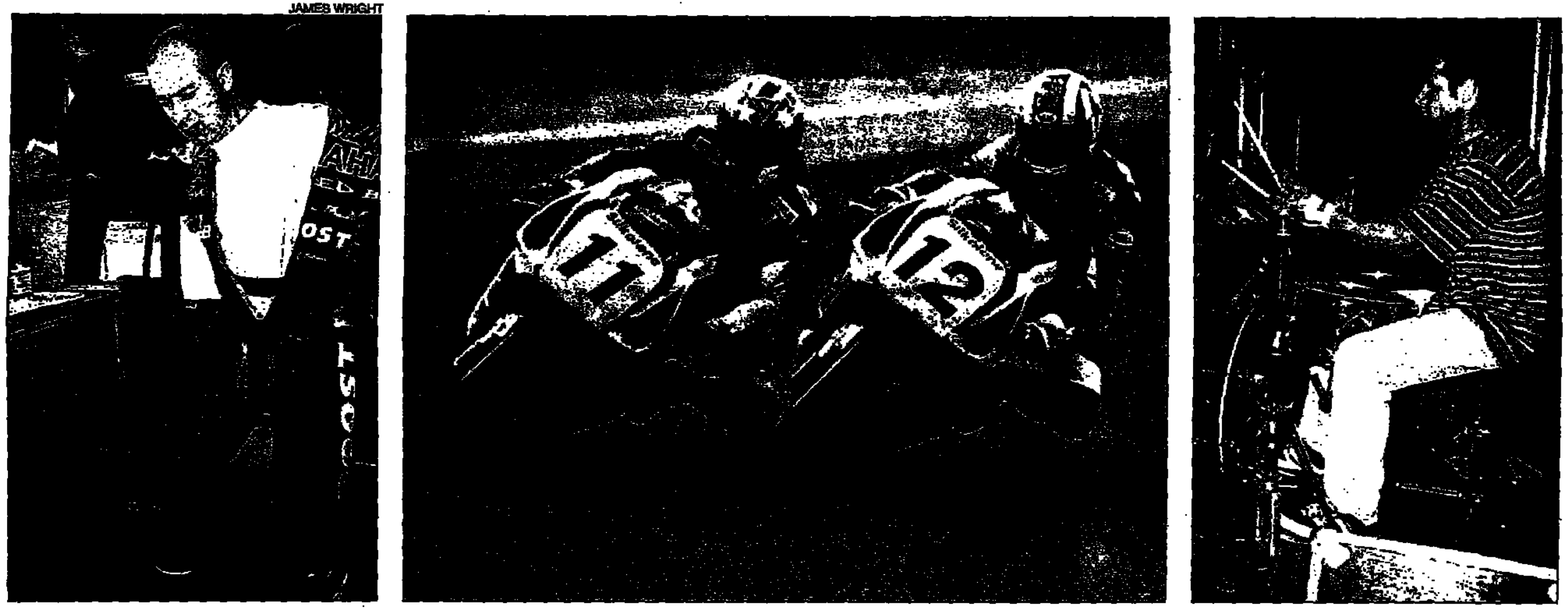
Carl Fogarty on his Ducati, right, leads Fabrico Provano of Italy and Australia's Troy Corser in the 1995 World Superbike Championships at the Salzburging circuit in which Fogarty finished second overall

SUPERFACTS

- **THE** rapid growth in Superbike racing's popularity in Britain mirrors that of the British Touring Car Championship. Fans love to watch machines like the ones they own fighting it out on the track.
- **MAKERS** have also beome increasingly enamoured because it is proving a great way of selling their products.
- **WHILE** fans get to watch machines like the Volvo S40s — being supported by *CAR 97* in the BTCC series — *bikers get to see top sportsbikes* such as the Ducati 916, Suzuki GSXR750 and Honda RC45 taken to the limits.
- **NOT** that they are completely standard: teams lighten and strengthen the engines, brace frames and swap suspensions for the latest race gear.
- **HONDA** says it will spend £5-6 million on this year's World Superbike Championship, while Team Suzuki says: "Whatever it costs, the company will spend. *If we asked for ten more engines,* at £50,000 each, Suzuki would send them."

After his battle against cancer, James Whitham is back in the superbike saddle. **John Naish** talked to him

JAMES WRIGHT



Whitham dons his leathers for the first time since his illness to repeat performances such as those against Mike Hale, centre, and drum up excitement as he does with his rock band

As the contenders line up on the grid at Donington next weekend for the Brit*ish rounds of the World Superbike Championship, one rider will have special reason to be glad of the chance to race.*

James Whitham, a 30-year-old Yorkshireman and hero of the local fans, is already putting his life's most crucial win behind him — his battle with cancer. Just two years ago, his championship-winning career was abruptly halted by a diagnosis of Hodgkin's disease.

But now he is back, contesting the World Superbike Championship, a race series rapidly growing in popularity with British racegoers because the bikes used are based on the *machines that many fans ride* themselves.

The racing roadbikes make the competition thrillingly close too, which is why Whitham's thoughts will not be on illness, but on turning his season round after a difficult start by taking full advantage of this, his local track.

The native of Halifax had begun to stamp his mark on motorcycle racing, including winning five British championships, when at the end of *1994 he* realised he had lost a lot of weight. Over the next year he got progressively weaker, until he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer.

"I had to stop racing *because of the chemotherapy, which made my hair fall out and cocked my eyesight up," he remembers. "The treatment* finished three weeks before Christmas, and I was back to racing in March. It only messed up one season."

In a remarkable comeback, he came a painfully close second in the British Superbike championship and was voted man of the year by readers of *Motorcycle News.*

Ask Whitham about his illness now and he says: "Oh, I'm forgetting about it." though he still has to go for regular hospital check-ups.

People around *Whitham say he lives to the full, with a wide range of interests* that includes drumming in his own rock band. So why go back to the sport after such a close brush with mortality?

"Racing is my life; I started after I left school at 16." he says. "One thing the Hodgkin's brought home to me was was that I had spent years doing a dangerous sport and never sustained any major injuries — and then was nearly finished off by something *out of the blue."*

But his attempt on the World Superbike championship this year has not gone well so far. After two meetings, in Australia and Italy, he is trailing in the points after crashing twice.

Donington, however, is where he aims to turn his season's fortunes. "It's my local track and I am keen to put on a good show," he says — and that means setting his sights on friend and *fellow Yorkshireman, Carl Fogarty.*

"Carl *and* I progressed through racing together, we live 45 minutes apart, our partners get on well together and we hang out together on the tracks — but I would like to beat him next weekend."

Fogarty, however, will have other ideas. The Ducati team rider, who has twice won the World Superbike Championship, is currently 14 points *behind series* leader John Kocinski. Fogarty also regards Donington *as his local track,* and hopes it will give him the opportunity to catch up.

Indeed, there is no shortage of British riders for the Donington crowd to cheer on next weekend; among the others joining Whitham and Fogarty are reigning British Superbike champion Niall Mackenzie riding a Yamaha, his team-mate and young rising star, Chris Walker, ten-times Isle of Man TT-winner Steve Hislop, and *Lancastrian Neil Hodgson.*

And the British involvement does not stop there. Just as in Grand Prix motor racing, where Britain is a centre of excellence, this country is a leading player in motorcycle race-building. Both Whitham's Suzuki team and Castrol Honda are British-run. The contract for Suzuki's superbike effort was won by Hertford-based Harris Performance against stiff competition from Japan and America.

Harris have for *decades been expert chassis-builders,* first finding fame for creating sate-of-the-art frames *that* turned unwieldy 1970s Japa*nese superbikes* into true sportsters.

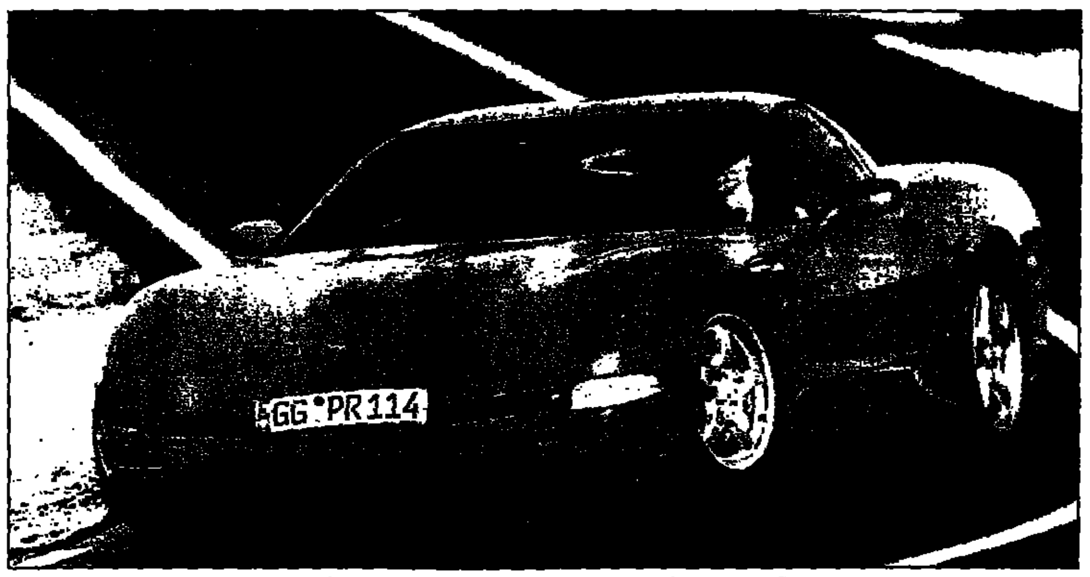
Now they are still at it, but are dedicating their skills to perfecting the already fine handling of Suzuki's road-going GSXR750. It's a tough battle, says team spokesman Paul Fowler: "This is our second year, and getting it right in racing takes time. We are up against teams that have *been contesting the championship for a lot longer, but at the last round,* at Misano our bike was the fastest at 174mph."

COMPETITION

PAIRS of tickets for next Sunday's race will go to the first five readers who write to: Times Competition, Donington Park, Derby, DE74 2RP, by Wednesday, *identifying which* county the track is in. (It's a trick question.)

Chevy serves a new slice of American pie

Vaughan Freeman finds heads turning as he tries out the fifth generation Corvette



Chevrolet Corvette: there will be no shortage of customers whwen the first 30 go on sale in Britain

Born in the USA: five generations of an all-American legend

United States soldiers stationed in Britain in the *1940s and early 1950s* loved the nippy "limey" sportsters such as the MG, the Triumph TR2, Austin Healey 100 and the Jaguar XK120, which out-performed and out-sexed anything back home.

Returning GIs clamoured for a car that offered similar performance and driving joy. The response came 44 years ago *when* Chevrolet unveiled *its first Corvette. Today Chevrolet,* part of the *General* Motors/Vauxhall empire, is launching its fifth generation Corvette, built for the first time to meet European legislative and safety requirements, though for the UK it will still be left-hand drive.

What Chevrolet must *do* is identify the British customer for a car that retains all the blueberry pie American character so *important* to the legend. GM Europe *marketing* director Susan Docherty says: "For over 40 years the Corvette has been the embodiment of *the American* sports car and a *dream* car if there ever was one. The Corvette is *targeted at a serious sports enthusiast who is seeking a unique product* providing him with image and styling but, more importantly, with performance."

The Corvette, she says, is aimed at a different customer from somebody who might buy a *new BMW* Z3, Porsche *Boxster or* Mercedes SLK. *Owners* are likely to be male, *professional,* aged 40 to 50, already *own more* than one car and who want a "high-performance sports car in the best American tradition".

What they will get is a car with head-swivelling looks, a hugely powerful engine and a glass-fibre body giving *it a weight of just 1,470kg (Chevrolet's* obsession with *saving weight even sees balsa wood inserts in the floor* where it works *as a sound deadener).*

Powered by the latest, all-aluminium incarnation of the Corvette's 5.7-litre small block V8, matched to a four-speed automatic gearbox (a six-speed manual arrives next year), the car flies to 60mph from a *standstill* in five *seconds and a top speed of 175mph.* But with the right foot off the accelerator it will burble along at around 30mph at 1,000rpm, and at a languid 2,000rpm will cruise at motorway speeds.

Massive disc brakes, anti-lock braking, traction control, wide magnesium *wheels* and variable *sports/performance/touring suspension settings ensure the Corvette* stays firmly on the road and stops instantly when required.

Inside, there is room for even the tallest driver and passenger. Unusually in a genuine high-performance sports car, there is also plenty of room in the back for bags and cases, and the pop-off roof is easy to remove and replace.

With the engine at the front, and transmission mounted on the rear axle, weight *is distributed* 50:50 *fore and aft which, together* with an *exceptionally stiff chassis,* makes the car very well balanced, although on rough or poorly surfaced roads, the penalty is paid with rattling teeth and a tendency for the front wheels to skip fractionally through fast corners.

The Corvette features run-flat *tyres that allow it to travel 200 miles on a puncture,* and tyre pressure transmitters linked to the dashboard display warn of a flat or a slow leak.

Intially only 30 Corvettes will be available in Britain when sales start in late summer with 250 to Europe in total, so that whatever the price tag turns out to be, it is certain to sell out.

Chevrolet Corvette

Body: Two-door, two-seat with removable hard top.

Engine: 5.7-litre V8 producing 345bhp at 5,600rpm driving rear wheels through four-speed automatic gearbox.

Performance: 0-60mph in 5 seconds, top speed 175mph.

Economy: 17mpg in town, 25mpg touring.

Equipment: Traction control, power steering, anti-lock braking, tyre pressure sensors, electric windows and seat controls.

Price: £35,000-£45,000.

On sale late summer.

NAMED for a *small, fast naval escort warship, the first Corvette* was launched in 1953 with *its now* trademark but then *revolutionary* glass-fibre body, and a 3.8-litre six cylinder 150bhp engine.

Though stylish, the Corvette drew complaints about its lack of performance, and two years later a V8 engine, in 4.3-litre, 195bhp *guise, arrived to give it muscle.*

The classic 1957 Corvette with fuel injection was followed in 1958 with another restyle featuring double headlights, shark's mouth grille and lashings of chrome. In 1963 came the legendary Sting Ray with its split rear window, retractable headlights and innovative independent rear suspension. It also featured a 360bhp V8 that made the Sting Ray Corvette the fastest accelerating sports car in the world *at the time. The* "Coke bottle", with *its pinched waist and flared wings,* was another design icon as the third generation Corvette in 1968.

During the 1960s and 1970s cheap petrol saw the car's engines swell, peaking with a monstrous 7.4 litre unit. The world energy crisis saw the engine scale down, at *least in US terms,* to the more *modest* 5.7 litres of today, and in 1983 came the fourth generation Corvette, only *now being* superseded by the latest model.

In 1990 came what many consider the definitive collector's Corvette, the ZR-1 incarnation, with a totally redesigned 32-valve 5.7 litre V8 with 375bhp and a top speed of almost 190mph. In 1992 Chevrolet built its millionth Corvette.

AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

IF YOU CANNOT FIND THE VEHICLE YOU DESIRE CONTACT YOUR AUTHORISED DEALER LISTED BELOW

Alfa Romeo

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Alfa Romeo, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead). Tel: 01628 605353

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - Hallowell Chesham Road, Amersham. Gary Parker, Martyn Lunnon. Tel: 01494 722191

DORSET - CASTERBRIDGE at London Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1NR. Julie Mullins 01305 250850

HAMPSHIRE - Clover Leaf Cars A30, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 7JD. Carl Gomez 01256 55221

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ. Phone 01252 334055

OXFORDSHIRE - Hallowell 379 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 2BS Contact William Griffiths 01865 772978

STAFFORDSHIRE - Plants of Longton Lightwood Rd Longton Stoke on Trent, Staffs, ST3 4JG. Tel: 01782 599400

SUSSEX - Wilson Purves Ltd 52A Brighton Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5BT Mike Whitaker 01403 221802

Aston Martin

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1BA. David Bradshaw 01732 456300

NORWICH - Stratton Motor Company (Norfolk) Ltd Ipswich Rd Long Stratton. Charlie Skelton Tel: 01508 530491

SURREY - H.W.M. LIMITED at New Zealand Avenue, Walton on Thames, KT12 1AT. Paul Spires 01932 220404

BMW

AVON - DICK LOVETT at Portwall Lane, Redcliffe Way, Bristol, Avon, BS1 6NG 0117 929 2402, 0117 982 2727

BEDFORDSHIRE - ELMS BMW. Shuttleworth Road, Bedford, in Bedfordshire MK41 0EP. Please Tel: 01234 369411

BEDFORDSHIRE - IVOR HOLMES 76 - 88 Marsh Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU3 2NJ. Contact 01582 576622

HERTFORDSHIRE - Specialist Cars London Road, Stevenage, Herts. Tel 01438 760200 Web http://www.specialistcars.co.uk/bmw/

KENT - Newmans of Canterbury Vauxhall Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1HA. Please Call 01227 454341

LONDON - COOPER BISHOPGATE 20 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4JH. For Any Information Tel: 0171 377 8811

LONDON - MLG of CHISWICK at 492 - 496 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 5TT. Please call 0181 995 1663

LONDON - BATES IN LONDON at 289 - 299 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall Bridge, London SE1. 0171 582 0000

MIDDLESEX - Heathrow BMW Ltd Park House, Horton Road, West Drayton, UB7 8JD. Please call 0181 848 8866, 0802 811566

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - SYTNER DIRECT 165 Huntingdon Street, NG1 3NH. Used Car Manager Mel Smith 0115 924 1144

SURREY - Coombs of Guildford Slyfield Green Estate, Woking Road, Guildford GU1 1RD Freephone 0800 289 495

SURREY - CRONK BMW Chipstead, Surrey. For Everything BMW Contact Gary Young 01737 556789

WILTSHIRE - Dick Lovett (Specialist Cars) Ltd Ashworth Road, Bridgemead, Swindon SN5 7YH 01793 615666

CATERHAM CARS

DERBYSHIRE - John Noble Motorsport Unit 21 Station Lane Ind Est, Old Whittington Chesterfield. 01246 453887

OXFORD - Arrowstar Racing Ltd Centremead, Osney Mead Ind Est, OX2 0ES Pippa Newland 01865 201156

SURREY - Redline Components for Caterham Cars. 19 Timber Lane Caterham Surrey CR3 6LZ Tel: 01883 346515

FIAT

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ. Phone 01252 334055

HONDA

KENT - WHITEHOUSE HONDA 20 Broadway, Bexley Heath, Kent, DA6 7LN. Tel: 0181 303 6363 Fax: 0181 301 5753

JAGUAR

BERKSHIRE - Mead of Burnham 367 Bath Road, Slough Berks SL1 5QA. Contact Sales Team 01628 668361

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - MERRITTS 44 London Road, Amersham, HP7 9DD. Roland Bonsford 01494 725911

CAMBRIDGESHIRE - Marshall Peterborough Tyrrell Park, Boongate PE1 5PT Alan Wensak 01733 312335

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Rd. emailjaguar@sevenoaks.lancasterplc.com 01732 456300

LANCASHIRE - Dutton Forshaw Preston Portway, Ashton on Ribble, PR2 2DF. Roger Carroll 01772 723456

LONDON - WOODFORD JAGUAR 50 - 56 High Road, Woodford, London, E18 1AS. Steve Russell 0181 989 6644

LONDON - Stratstone of Mayfair 40 Berkeley Street, London, W1X 6EN Stewart Banks 0171 629 4404. Sun 0468 505872

SURREY - PALADIN JAGUAR at 33 - 35 Bell Street, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 7AJ. Keith Hopkins 01737 241100, 0374 415434

SURREY - GUY SALMON Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0TR. Tel: 0181 398 4222

WEST MIDLANDS - COLLIERS at 166 -168 Birmingham Rd. Sutton Coalfield, B72 1BX Keith Gallaghan 0121 355 6151

WEST YORKSHIRE - Perrys Jaguar Northgate, Huddersfield, HD1 6AP. Contact Howard Jessop 01484 451200

WEST YORKSHIRE - Appleyard Jaguar Bradford Northbrook Street, Canal Road, BD1 4RQ Mike Smith 01274 394439

LAND-ROVER

LONDON - LANCASTER CITY at 68 - 70 High Street, Stratford, E15 2NE New and Used Models 0181 522 0023

LEXUS

BERKSHIRE - Currie Motors Rose Kiln Lane, Reading. Mike Miller www.lexus.co.uk/curriemotors 01734 758877

ESSEX - Hills Automobiles (Woodford) Ltd 536/564 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0PR Robert Call 0181 504 8511

EXETER - YEOMANS EXETER. Hennock Road, Marsh Barton EX2 8NP. Call Helen Johnson 01392 434781

LONDON - HASSOP LEXUS 291/295 Willesden Lane, London, NW2 5HT. Call Ferdy Gottschall 0181 459 0066

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - Mann Egerton 431-461 Nottingham Rd, Basford, Nottingham NG6 0FB. Mr Davies 0115 942 2242

LOTUS

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Lotus, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead) SL6 0NT. Tel: 01628 605353

DERBYSHIRE - Peter Smith Sports Cars. Station Road, Hatton, in Derby, Derbyshire. DE6 5EL. Tel: 01283 813593

MAZDA

LONDON - CURRIE MOTORS Wimbledon 165 The Broadway Wimbledon, SW19. Please call 0181 543 1131

LONDON - HASSOP MAZDA 370 - 386 High Road, Wembley, HA9 6AX. Demonstrations at your home or office. 0800 132 009

MERCEDES

BERKSHIRE - SUNNINGDALE CARRIAGE COMPANY London Road, Berkshire. Telephone 01344 871200

ESSEX - London Road Mercedes 20-28 London Road, Romford. Tony Consuegra Sales Manager T: 01708 730454/Fax 748555

LONDON: BRADSHAW WEBB LTD Wandsworth Bridge, South London SW18 1TB. Call Mike Hutchinson 0171 493 7705

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - BBK Thomas Trent Bridge, Nottingham. Roger Wetherill 0115 982 2333, 0860 251435

MITSUBISHI

BEDFORDSHIRE - Claras Garage Ltd 2 Northill Road, Copel, Bedford. Contact Stuart Reynolds 01234 838122

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Mitsubishi, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead). Tel: 01628 605353

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Mitsubishi Motors Cirencester Elliot Road, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 1YS. 01285 655789

KENT - WHITEHOUSE MITSUBISHI 20 Broadway, Bexley Heath, Kent, DA6 7LN. Tel: 0181 301 6111 Fax: 0181 301 5753

LONDON - MOTOR WEY (Putney) Ltd, Putney, London SW15 2NL. Telephone on 0181 871 1122 Open Sundays 11am - 4pm

SOMERSET - Tincknell Mitsubishi Main Road, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LF. John Horgan 01278 652244

SURREY - COURT & SMITH LTD Fishers House, Portsmouth Rd, Ripley, Nr Woking, Surrey. 01483 222164

SURREY - MOTOR WEY LTD Weybridge Road, Weybridge, Surrey. Tel: 01932 857917 Open Sundays 11am-4pm

WORCESTERSHIRE - Fields of Bromsgrove Sanders Road, Bromsgrove B61 7DQ. Contact Peter Field on 01527 575877

MORGAN

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Morgan, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead). Tel: 01628 605353

SCOTLAND - Thomson & Potter Burrelton, Blairgowrie, Nr Perth Morgan Hire in the Highlands. 01828 670247

NISSAN

OXFORDSHIRE Humphris (Oxford) Ltd 24 years Nissan Experience. 72 Rose Hill, Oxford Keith Horn 01865 748000

PEUGEOT

HAMPSHIRE - SH MOTORS, 132 Weyhill Road, (Off A303). Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3BB. 01264 324202

PORSCHE

ISLE OF MAN - CORKILLS. Porsche, Main Road, Onchan. Douglas, Isle of Man, IM3 1BA Tel: 01624 677911.

NORTH EAST - JCT600 Newcastle Silverlink Park, Wallsend, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE28 9ND. Tel: 0191 295 1294

RENAULT

KENT - WHITEHOUSE RENAULT Lee Terrace, Lewisham, London, SE13 5DL. Tel: 0181 852 4616 Fax: 0181 852 5902

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Ezra Sugden Ltd Gateford Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 1TY. 01909 473053

ROLLS-ROYCE

BERKSHIRE - Mead of Burnham 367 Bath Road, Slough Berks SL1 5QA. Contact Peter Ingram 01628 668361

LANCASHIRE - Dutton Forshaw Preston Ashton on Ribble, Preston, PR2 2DF, Roger Carroll 01772 723456

LONDON - Jack Barclay Ltd, Berkeley Square, W1X 6AB. Nine Elms, London SW8 5BA. Tel: 0171 629 7444

SAAB

KENT - WHITEHOUSE SAAB 20 Broadway, Bexley Heath, Kent, DA6 7LN. Tel: 0181 304 4431 Fax: 0181 301 5753

SEAT

OXFORDSHIRE - CORNERHOUSE. Wootton Road, Abingdon, Oxon. Contact Pat Minns Anytime on 01865 735121

SUBARU

GREATER MANCHESTER - A P HYNES & CO 245 Barlow Moor Rd, Chorlton, Manchester. Tel: 0161 881 5390

SUZUKI

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - D.G.L Garages Littleworth Road, Downley High Wycombe HP13 3XE Gary Bush 01494 451884

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - Doncaster Motors 345 Knottingham Road, Mansfield. New & Used Suzuki at Best Prices 01623 27346

SHROPSHIRE - LUDLOW MOTORS LIMITED Bromfield Road, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1EN. 01584 876444

TVR

HERTFORDSHIRE - The TVR Centre Barnet Road, Arkley, Herts, EN5 3LJ. Peter Smith 0181 440 6666

VOLKSWAGEN

ESSEX - BRISTOL STREET VW Sales, Service, Parts & Rental. 144 London Road, Romford, Essex. RM7 9QL 01708 722345

KENT - Whitehouse Volkswagen 135 Blendon Road, Bexley, Kent, DA5 1BZ. Tel: 0181 301 3060 Fax: 0181 304 4888

VOLVO

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - Pilling Motor Group Saxon Street Bletchley Milton Keynes. Cumine Prancillo 01908 270470

HERTFORDSHIRE - Pilling Motor Group London Rd, Two Waters, Hemel Hempstead. HP3 9AA Colin Page 01442 246691

LINCOLNSHIRE - JOHN MORRIS MOTORS LTD Grimsby, Scunthorpe. Tel: 01472 361838 or 01724 279467

LONDON - TRIANGLE VOLVO at 65 - 67 Stamford Hill, London, N16 5TJ. Call Mike O'Connor 0181 800 0411

LONDON - Volvo Car Colindale The Hyde, Colindale, London, NW9 6NW Sales, Service & Parts 0181 200 9797

LONDON - Volvo Car Central London 373-375 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AR. Sales, David Ellis 0831 212234

LONDON - Volvo Car Southbank 50 New Kent Road, London, SE1 5TW. Sales, Service & Parts 0171 252 7000

THE TIMES

DEALERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

WILL BE APPEARING
EVERY WEEK
IN CAR 97

TEL 0171 481 4422 Fax 0171 782 782/

THE TIMES

DEALERSHIP AT A GLANCE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ENTER YOUR DEALERSHIP IN THIS SECTION PLEASE CALL OR FAX:

TEL 0171 481 4422 Fax 0171 782 7827

OVER 1 THIRD OF TIMES READERS BOUGHT A USED CAR IN THE LAST YEAR.
THE TIMES IS THE FASTEST GROWING DAILY NEWSPAPER

(Source: NRS Aug - Jan '97)

ALFA ROMEO

SPIDER 2.0

White, 1988/E, 36k. VGC, ggd.

£9950 ono

01276 61953 (Surrey).

94 K

Alfa 164 2.0 TS lusso, metallic black, 1 owner. 50K miles, Sun roof, alloys, CD. FSH, 12 month MOT £6495.

Tel: 01734 402995.

GTV

lusso spec 96 P 8k miles, rosso proteo met, black leather, CD, 1 owner, immaculate, £21,995.

Tel: 01343 545108.

THE CAPITAL'S NEW DEALERS

97P SPIDER LUSSO Green, 6,000 miles £24995
96P GTV LUSSO Silver, 7,500 miles £22990
96P 155 2.0 TS Met Blue, 7,800 miles £16295
96P 145 QV Proteo Red, 12,500 miles £13600
96P 146 Ti Titanium, 11,500 mls £14485
94M 164 24V SUPER 3.0 MAN Silver, 36 000 miles £14495

Edwards — Epsom 01372 744444
Follett — Mayfair 0171 4910788
Montroe — Woodford 0181 5041171
Palace — Watford 01923 238909
Riviera — Wembley 0181 9988811
San Siro — Welling 0181 3035679

AMERICAN CARS

AC COBRA 427 Replica, factory built by Classic Roadster, LHD, del miles, Red / Beige £19,950. 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

CLASSIC CADILLAC Fleetwood Brougham d'Elegance Sedan 1976. Superb overall condition. £4,750ono. Tel: 0973 851998

CORVETTE Convertible Auto 92, Black/Black lthr, full options, 1 owner, low mileage. Like New. Spanish or English reg £19,950. 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

CORVETTE Convertible Man 96P, white/red lthr, full options, 7,000 miles, £27,950. 0171 3289648 / 0378 841791 T

LINCOLN Continental Stretch Limousine, 1988. Estimate £10,000-12,000. For sale by auction at Olympia, London on 8th May. Catalogues available Brooks Ltd on 0171-228 8000

ASTON MARTIN

ASTON MARTIN Vantage, 1989, 8,700 miles, Manual. Estimate £40,000-50,000. For sale by auction at Olympia, London on 8th May. Catalogues available, contact Brooks Ltd on 0171-228 8000

ASTON MARTIN Volante, 1982, 44,000 miles, Manual. Estimate. £35,000-40,000. For sale by auction at Olympia, London on 8th May. Catalogues available, contact Brooks Ltd on 0171-228 8000

Lancaster

DB7 Coupe Auto

95N Mendip Blue, Grey Leather, 12,000 miles, FSH

£67,995

0181 983 4444

ASTON MARTIN

Aston Martin

96P VANTAGE Peacock Blue, Magnolia Leather, (Costs new £190,000) 2T £139,000
93L VIRAGE VOLANTE AUTO Metallic Grey, Magnolia Leather 7T £79,500
96P DB7 AUTO Buckingham Green, Parchment Leather 180mls £71,000
95N DB7 AUTO Cheviot Red, Parchment Leather 4T £66,000
95M DB7 AUTO Chiltern Green, Magnolia Leather - Piped Green, CD stack 3T £66,000

Graypaul

01509 232233 SUNDAY 10–4

A Sytner Company

AUDI

RS2 95M, Polar Silver/ Black Full Lthr, Air Con, 30,000 miles, £43,995 Lancaster Bow 0181 983 4444

S2 COUPE 93K 6spd, Emerald Green/Black Leather int. Hi-fi, Sony 10CD Boot loader. 1 loving owner from new. FSH. Always garaged. Immaculate £18,500. 0171 252 1843

2.6 CABRIOLET

June 94, Red, Very Low mileage. Excellent condition Power hood, alloys, CD, FSH, 1 Owner,

£20,500
01725 519 380

A4

2.6 SE May 95, Emerald, Air con, CD player, Full Audi Service History, 25,000 miles.

£19,000.

0181 255 1732

AUDI

IVER VILLAGE CARS

Quality Audi Specialists

95 (N) Cabriolet 2.0 Byzance, p/hood, h/leather 13k £21,500
94 (M) Coupe 2.8 quattro Silver, a/c, leather 34k £18,995
94 (M) Cabriolet 2.0 Ruby red, alloys, stereo £17,995
95 (M) A6 2.5 TDI 140Bhp Est 6 speed, acc, esr £17,995
96 (N) Coupe 2.6 Amazon, a/c, h/leather, 6 speed £17,995
94 (M) Coupe 2.6 Forest, alloys, ABS, e/w 19k £16,495
93 (K) S2 Coupe Panther, a/c, leather, 6 speed £16,495
93 (K) S4 Auto Silver, acc, leather, CD, cruise £14,995
93 (K) S4 Saloon Indigo, 6 speed, a/c, leather £14,995
94 (L) Coupe 2.8E quattro Indigo, a/c, leather £14,295
91 (J) S2 Coupe Volcano, Leather, esr £13,495
91 (H) S2 Coupe Blue Pearl, a/c, esr, r/seats £12,995
95 (M) A4 1.6 Red, ABS, e/w, airbag £12,995
95 (M) 80 TDI Est Cherry red, esr, alloys £12,995
93 (K) 80 2.0E Est Silver, esr 47k £10,995
87 (D) UR quattro Nile green, superb ..... £ 9,995
92 (J) 80 2.0 16V Silver, a/c, s/r, e/w, alloys ..... £ 8,295
89 (G) Coupe 2.3E Cayenne pearl ..... 66k £ 7,995
90 (G) Coupe 2.0E Black, s/r, alloys ..... £ 5,995

IVER, BUCKS.
TEL.01753 650909/FAX.01753 651019

AMERICAN CARS

CADILLAC Fleetwood Stretch Limousine, 1977. Estimate £6,000-7,000. For sale by auction at Olympia, London on 8th May. Catalogues available from Brooks Ltd on 0171-228 8000

AUDI

QUATTRO Turbo

1987 E
Tornado Red
FASH, MOT
44,000 miles
Original and
Immaculate car
Clifford alarm
£12,500.

Tel: Alan 0181 944 8483(b) or 0802 454977(m)

2.6 CABRIOLET

1995N
Byzance
6,000 miles FSH
10 stack CD
immobiliser.
Uprated 16" wheels
Immac cond throughout.
£26,900.

Tel: 01474 354242

AUDI Avant 1.8T

5 door. P reg. Only 2K miles, metallic Green, leather & walnut interior, climate & cruise controls, alloy wheels, full electrics & many more extras! Purchase surplus to requirement.

£27,500 ono.
Tel Mike
01491 570200

AUDI APPROVED

Audi at Dovercourt

BATTERSEA

95N CABRIOLET 2.8 AUTO, Amazon Green, Alloys, Power Hood, 8,000 miles
96N A4 1.8 TURBO SPORT, Black, 10,000 Miles, ESR, ABS, Alloys
94L CABRIOLET 2.6E, Forest Green Metallic, 20,000 miles, 10 Spoke Alloys, FSH, Blackhood
95N A4 TDi Volcano, Black, 18,000 miles, ESR, Airbag, 1 Owner
95M A6 2.6 SE ESTATE, Ming Blue, Automatic, Black, Leather, Sunroof
96P A4 AVANT 2.6, Auto, Amazon Green, 4,000 miles, Alloys, B/Rails, 1 Owner
96N A6 1.8 SE ESTATE, Pearl Blue, 6,000 miles, Alloys, R/Rails
95N A8 4.2 quattro sport, Emerald Pearl, Leather, 1 Owner, 8,000 miles
93K S2 ESTATE, Emerald Green, 35,000 miles, FSH, 2 Owners
93L 80 TdI Saloon, Indigo Blue, Alloys, Sunroof, 38,000 miles, FSH
97P A4 TURBO SPORT, Aluminium, 5,000 miles, Demonstrator, 1 Owner

ST. JOHNS WOOD

97P A8 4.2 quattro, Ruby, Ecru leather, 2T
97P A8 4.2 quattro SPORT, Emerald, Ecru leather, 4T
96N A8 3.7 SPORT, Aluminium, Black leather, Full spec, 14T
96P CABRIOLET 2.8 AUTO KINGFISHER, Power hood, Walnut, 11T
95M CABRIOLET 2.6 AUTO, Silver, Leather, Power hood, 24T
94M COUPE 2.6, Ming, Forest, Leather, Alcona, Walnut, 20T
94L S4 TURBO quattro, Ruby, Ecru leather, Climate, 34T
94M A6 2.8 quattro, Indigo Blue, Good spec, 41T
94L 100 2.6 AUTO, Lago Blue, Climate, Good spec, 31T
95M A4 quattro, Ming, Leather, Climate, Alloys, 13T
93L 80 2.0E, Estate, Red, Auto, Good spec, 16T

Audi Approved Used Cars

- Comprehensive Multi-Point Inspection
- Independent confirmation of mileage
- HPI Autodata Check
- Audi Approved 12 Month Warranty
- 14 Day Exchange Plan

Dovercourt Audi

BATTERSEA 95 YORK ROAD BATTERSEA LONDON TEL 0171 924 5544
ST JOHNS WOOD 30 ST JOHNS WOOD RD LONDON TEL 0171 286 5000

Audi

Alan Day Audi 0181 349 0022

Audi

97P A8 4.2 Quattro
Amazon Green, Ecru Leather, Extras ..... £P.O.A

96P Cabriolet
Black, Powerhood, Walnut £25,995

96N A6 2.6 SE Estate Auto
Brilliant Black, 5K £22,495

96P A6 2.6 SE Auto
Emerald Green, 12K £21,995

96N A6 2.6 Auto Estate
Silver, Walnut Dash, Roof Rails, 5k £20,995

96N A4 TDI 90 Bhp SE Auto
Amazon Green, 15k £19,495

97P A4 2.6 Quattro
Silver, Black Lthr, Extras, 6k ..... £P.O.A

97P A4 Avant SE Auto
Cactus Green, Extras, 6k ..... £P.O.A

96N A4 1.8 SE
Emerald Green, 10k £18,995

96N A4 1.8 Auto
Silver, 9k £17,995

97P A3 1.8 SE
Volcano Black, Leisure Info System, 6k ..... £P.O.A

96P A3 1.8 Sport
Volcano Black, 9k £17,295

97P A3 1.8
Blue Pearl, Sunroof, 6k ..... £P.O.A

Franklin Audi... moving in the right circles.

96P A8 4.2 quattro SPORT ★★★★★ 6T £49,000
95N A8 4.2 quattro ★★★★★ 29T £38,500
95N A6 2.6 EST AUTO ★★ 13T £19,750
95M A6 2.5 TDI 140 BHP ★★ 18T £18,250
95N A6 2.0 SE ★★★ 19T £16,750
96N A4 2.6 SE AVANT ★★★ 13T £21,450
96P A4 1.9 TDI 110 BHP ★★ 16T £16,750
96P A4 1.8 T ★★ 9T £19,750
96P A4 1.8 SE ★★★ 7T £19,500
95N A4 1.8 SE ★★★ 30T £17,250
95N A4 1.8 ★★ 43T £14,950
96P 2.8 CABRIOLET ★★★★★ 6T £P.O.A.
95N 2.6 E CABRIOLET AUTO ★★★★ 10T £27,000
94L 2.6 E CABRIOLET AUTO ★★★★ 26T £22,500
94M 80 2.6 quattro ★★★ 39T £14,900

★★ENHANCED SPEC ★★★LEATHER OR AIR ★★★★LEATHER AND AIR ★★★★★TOTAL SPEC

0113 263 3431 Eves 0966 202 308

OPEN 7 DAYS SUNDAY 11–5. A SYTNER COMPANY.

Audi

AUDI WANTED

Franklin

We require the very best high specification Audis. Please telephone Simon Fennell for an enthusiastic response.

01483 272 451
or 0836 52 55 52

A Sytner Company

BMW

325i Convertible.

Green metallic, Beige leather. L Reg. Fully automatic. All extras. 1 owner only. 25,000 miles. Must sell soon. £24,500.

Tel. 0385 360954 or 0171 245 0222

M5

Diamond Black. Full Champagn leather Reg 90, 39K miles. FSH, colour coded alloys. P Zero tyres. 10 stack CD Auto air conditioning Too many extras to list. 1 off high performance stunning car.

£19,500.

Tel: 0181 597 5597(w) or 0468 736625(m)

M3

Evolution convertible. Techno Violet, grey leather. 3,500 mls, 1 lady owner, £41,995. Tel. 01924 364469

M3

94 L Coupe, black metallic/ leather, spoiler, sun-roof, a/c, heated seats, cruise control, FBMWSH, only 21k. £26,995.

Tel: 0181 993 5697.

325i

Coupe 93L granite metallic/black lthr, a/c, a/b, cd, heated seats, alarm & more, FSH, 42K £17,750.

01923 828904.

BMW

318i

Convertible. 96N. 4,000 miles, Boston green metallic paint, colour coded, electric hood, Saffron leather, CD, FBMWSH, £24,500.

Day 01322 521014 Eves 0181 311 9968

RENT a Z3

Weekend rate
£395 inc.
also Morgans, MGF's
WYKEHAMS
tel. 0171 589 6894

Z3

1.9 Atlanta Blue met, auto, leather, 16" Z alloys, crome pack, computer, pioneer multi CD, airbag, elec seats, alarmed.

£32,000 ono.
0181 764 5279.

Z3 Met Silver red lthr, RHD, computer, A/C, chrome line, heated door mirrors, big alloys, asc + traction, tracker, alarmed. CD. £27,950.

0973 122341.

Z3

Reg No. B3 OND

1.9 Roadster, full spec, Arctic silver/black leather with above reg no. £26,500 ono. *Delivery end April.*

0171 930 5351 (Eve)
0181 830 1110 (Day).

328I

Coupe, 1996N, Arctic grey metallic, s/roof, alarm, alloys, CD, 23000 miles, *balance of 3yr warranty.* £22,950 ono.

0171 8376342 (Office mornings) 01323 737962.

316i

Saloon, Black, 93K, *37,000 miles, FBMWSH,* removable CD, rem *alarm, excellent* condition. £12,000 ono.

0181 7420509.

325i

SE June 1993 22K m only, FSH, immaculate condition, CD, £15,500.

Tel: 01474 708195.

750i

V12 93L, 80K, silver, pale grey hide, immac. £22,000.

01628 533161/ 0468 695304.

525i

SE 1994 L 5 speed manual. brilliant red, 43K, sports seats, ESR, CL, HEDM, RS, AW, CC, Radio CD, FBMWSH, Must be seen, £19,750.

01303 850328.

CONTRACT HIRE

PLATINUM

FULFILLING YOUR VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS PROFESSIONALLY

SPECIALISTS IN:
- CONTRACT HIRE
- LEASE PURCHASE
- HIRE PURCHASE
- FLEET MANAGEMENT
- ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT

STOP & LOOK

USED CONTRACT HIRE NOW AVAILABLE ON UPTO 300 USED CARS FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. HUGE SAVINGS ON NEW. ALSO EX LEASE CARS NOW AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE - ALL TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE.

FULL MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS WITH CONTRACT HIRE/LEASE/HIRE PURCHASE/ DIRECT CASH & EXISTING FLEETS EXAMPLES BELOW

EXECUTIVE	MPV'S	EXOTICS	FLEET
BMW FROM ONLY £272	ULYSSE FROM ONLY £240	M3 FROM ONLY £569	FIAT FROM ONLY £134
MERCEDES FROM ONLY £319	SERENA FROM ONLY £236	TVR FROM ONLY £554	PASSAT FROM ONLY £249
AUDI FROM ONLY £269	SYNERGIE FROM ONLY £297	JAGUAR XJ6 FROM ONLY £569	MONDEO FROM ONLY £255
R ROVER FROM ONLY £530	GALAXY FROM ONLY £315	'S' CLASS FROM ONLY £635	LAGUNA FROM ONLY £230

• Rentals are per month and + VAT • Quotes are based on 3x35/10,000 mpa/ full-maint. contract hire, business users and self employed only. Subject to status.

FOR INFORMATION & QUOTES

TEL: (0800) 07 33 123

THE CONTRACT HIRE AND LEASING SPECIALISTS

Direct Rentals

SHORT AND LONG TERM CONTRACT SPECIALISTS

ANY MAKE, MODEL, MILEAGE OR PROFILE QUOTED
BUSINESS USERS ONLY - YOUR CAR PURCHASED FOR CASH

AMAZING!

FOR BMW, AUDI OR, OTHER EXECUTIVE VEHICLES WITH BASIC SPECIFICATION & UNREALISTIC DELIVERY TIMES, CALL NOW QUOTING - FLYING PIG.

DON'T WASTE TIME ON THE REST - DEAL WITH THE BEST

BMW 520i £349

ATTENTION!

CALL THE NO.1 COMPANY WITH ALL THE DEALS UNDER 1 ROOF
- SHORT TERM RENTAL - CONTRACT HIRE - LEASE-LEASE PURCHASE - NEW PERSONAL CONTRACTS

CONTRACT HIRE - special offers for summer

Keep Your Cool

HIGH MILEAGE USERS! Take advantage of our MAINTENANCE INCLUSIVE deals, 20K miles PA on AIR CONDITIONED VEHICLES.

Xantia 1.9 TD A/C £60pw
Laguna 1.8 RT A/C £71pw
Peugeot 406 1.8 LX A/C £74pw

3 Year Deals

Calibra 2.0 GT ..... £[illegible]
BMW coupe 2.0 GT ..... £[illegible]
Laguna 2.0 RXI 16v ..... £[illegible]
Previa 2.4 GX auto ..... £[illegible]
Honda Accord 1.8 ..... £[illegible]
BMW 318i S Coupe ..... £[illegible]
! IMMEDIATE DELIVERY !
Fiat Ulysse ..... from £[illegible]

Topless Models

CONTRACT HIRE ON CABRIOLETS! ORDER NOW FOR SUMMER 1997

CABRIOLETS.....
MAZDA MX5 ..... £219
ESCORT CAB £233
GOLF 75bhp £244
SAAB 900 ..... £329
BMW 323i £395

1 Year Deals

Peugeot 306 SLX ..... £[illegible]
Saab 900S Convertible £[illegible]
Audi A4 1.8 SE ..... £[illegible]
Citroen ZX 1.4 ..... £[illegible]
BMW 316i coupe ..... £[illegible]

1-3 MONTH RENTAL

GREAT for NEW RECRUITS! Temporary projects! Replacement Vehicle!

AVAILABLE NOW FOR SUMMER - PEOPLE CARRIERS ..... CALL

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ALWAYS AVAILABLE - WIDE RANGE FROM £325 PER MONTH

EXECUTIVE VEHICLE RENTAL SERVICE call for details
-MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI - SAAB - LEXUS - RANGE ROVER
4 X 4 VEHICLE RENTAL SPECIALISTS call for details

Tel: 01902 353393 Fax: 01902 353150

CONTRACT HIRE

SIMPLY THE BEST DEALS!

LOOK AT THESE!!!

FIAT CINQUECENTO 1.1 SPORTING	£158.22
CITROEN SAXO 1.1i X, 5 Door	£176.74
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 EXPRESSION, 5 Door	£212.56
TOYOTA COROLLA 1.3 SPORTIF, 5 Door	£218.88
FIAT BRAVA 1.4 SX	£244.19
TOYOTA CARINA 1.6e SOLAIR, 5 Door	£258.93
RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 RT, Air Con, Sunroof	£271.56
CITROEN XANTIA 1.8 LX	£277.90
FORD MONDEO 1.8i LX, Air Con	£334.78
HONDA ACCORD 2.0 Si	£313.90
VW GOLF 1.8, 2 Door Cabriolet	£336.82
AUDI A3 1.6 SPORT	£338.72
ROVER 620 SDi, Sunroof	£344.26
FORD PROBE 2.0 16v	£348.53
VW GOLF 2.8 VR6, 3 Door	£375.46
TOYOTA CAMRY 2.2i, 4 Door	£376.68
SAAB 900 2.0 S, 2 Door Convertible	£428.67

THIS WEEKS SPECIAL OFFER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
ALFA ROMEO 3.0 164 SUPER AUTO MET PAINT LTHR UPHLSTRY£560.09

36 MONTHS, 60,000 MILES WITH FULL MAINTENANCE - PAY PLAN 3 + 33
EVERY MAKE AND MODEL SUPPLIED
FREE NATIONAL DELIVERY!
SALE & LEASEBACK SPECIALISTS
Business Users Only, subject to status.

Evans Halshaw Contract **hire**

Tel: 0121 717 7333
Fax: 0121 625 0126

OPENING TIMES Mon - Fri 9am-5.30pm Contact Gay or Alice

ALFA ROMEO

"Only an Alfa Romeo Auto Expert Dealer can offer you an approved used Alfa Romeo with guaranteed peace of mind. For your nearest Dealer ring 0800 719000."

◆12 Month Warranty ◆Full AA Cover
◆Vehicle Mileage Check
◆35 Point Check ◆30 Day Exchange Plan
◆Full Service ◆Fully Valeted

Auto Expert

APPROVED USED CARS

ARENA, DERBY • 01332 375330
96P Alfa GTV Lusso, Red, Fully Serviced £21,995
96P Alfa GTV, Black £19,995
96N Alfa 155 2.0 Twin Spark, Metallic Silver £11,995
95N Alfa 145 1.6L, Red £9,995
95M Alfa 146 1.6L 5 Door, White £9,250

AUTOITALIA, COVENTRY • 01203 221144
96N Alfa Spider Lusso 2.0 Twin Spark, Atoll Blue £24,995
96N Alfa GTV 2.0 Twin Spark, Atoll Blue, Sunroof £19,995
96N Alfa 146ti, Titanium Grey £14,295
96N Alfa 145 Cloverleaf, Red, Air Conditioning £13,495
94L Alfa 33 1.7 16v, Metallic Red, F.S.H. £5,995

CALEDONIA, PRESTON • 01772 555800
96P Alfa 164 2.0 TS Super Lusso, Petroleum, ESR, Alloys £16,995
96P Alfa 155 2.0 TS Sport, Various Colours, Alloys £12,495
95P Alfa 155 1.8 TS, Various Colours, Alloys, ABS £11,495
96P Alfa 145 1.6L, Titanium, ESR, ABS, Alarm, Airbag £10,995
93K Alfa 164 2.0 TS Lusso, Red, Alloys, S/R, Alarm £7,995

FISH BROTHERS, SWINDON • 01793 512685
97P Alfa 145 2.0 Cloverleaf, Black, Alloys, CD, Alarm ..... P.O.A.
96P Alfa 164 2.0 Super Lusso, Met Red, Alloys, S/R £18,500
96P Alfa 155 2.0 16v, Alfa Red, ABS, Alloys, Alarm £15,500
96N Alfa 146 1.6L, Alfa Red, ABS, Alarm £9,995

HERBERT ROBINSON, CAMBRIDGE • 01223 242222
96N Alfa Spider 2.0 16v, Alfa Red, Leather, Air Con £22,995
97P Alfa 155 2.0 16v, Northern Blue, Sport Pack, S/R ..... P.O.A.
93L Alfa 164 3.0 Auto, Bordeaux Red, Alloys, A/C, S/R £13,995
96P Alfa 155 1.8 16v, Alfa Red, Sunroof, CD Changer £13,995
97P Alfa 145 1.6 Boxer, Proteo Red, Sunroof, ABS ..... P.O.A.

PERRYS, HUDDERSFIELD • 01484 432000
97P Alfa 164 3.0 Cloverleaf, Alfa Red, CD Player ..... P.O.A.
97P Alfa 146ti, Black, Sunroof, CD ..... P.O.A.
96P Alfa 155 Super, Silver White, Sunroof, CD £12,995

IAN SKELLY, LIVERPOOL • 0151 254 2000
97P Alfa 155 2.0 Twin Spark, Black, Air Con, Sunroof ..... P.O.A.
96P Alfa 155 2.0 Twin Spark, Met Plum, Sport Pack £13,995
96P Alfa 155 2.0 Twin Spark Super, Met Blue, Alloys £13,995
97P Alfa 146 2.0ti, Proteo Red, Alloys, Alarm, CD ..... P.O.A.
96N Alfa 145 1.6L, Met Red, Alarm, PAS £9,495

L.C. MOTORS, CWMBRAN • 01633 876411
97P Alfa 155 2.0 Twin Spark, Proteo Red, ABS, PAS, Alarm P.O.A.
96P Alfa GTV 2.0 Twin Spark, Alfa Red £19,995
96N Alfa 146 1.6L, Bordeaux Red, ABS, PAS, Alarm £9,995
91J Alfa 164 2.0 Twin Spark, Alfa Red £5,995

MILL GARAGES, TYNE & WEAR • 0191 519 2487
97P Alfa 164 Super Lusso, Leather, Air Con ..... P.O.A.
97P Alfa 155 Sport, Northern Blue, S/R, Sport Kit ..... P.O.A.
97N Alfa 145 Cloverleaf, Red ..... P.O.A.
96N Alfa 145 Cloverleaf, Alfa Red £13,495
95N Alfa 146L, White, ABS, Alarm £8,995

NORTHGATE, CANTERBURY • 01227 765591
96P Alfa 164 3.0 V6 Cloverleaf, Alfa Red, Recaro Seats £28,995
96P Alfa GTV Lusso, Atoll Blue, Air Con, Leather Trim £23,995
96P Alfa 155 2.0 Super, Met Blue, Sunroof, Alloys £14,995
96P Alfa 155 1.8 Twin Spark, Alfa Red, Sunroof £12,495
93K Alfa 155 2.0 TS Lusso, Green, Alloys, A/C, S/R £8,695

ST. LEONARDS, HASTINGS • 01424 852233
96N Alfa GTV 2.0 16v TS Lusso, Met Atoll Blue, Leather £21,995
96P Alfa 155 2.0 16v TS, Alfa Red, Sport Pack, A/C £16,995
96P Alfa 146 2.0ti, Met Titanium £14,995
96P Alfa 146 2.0ti 16v, Met Graphite Grey, Elec. S/R £14,495
97P Alfa 155 1.8 TS 16v, Proteo Red ..... P.O.A.

S.G.T., MAIDENHEAD • 01628 605353
95N Alfa 164 3.0 Super Lusso, Met Plum, Leather, FSH £18,995
95N Alfa 164 2.0 Super Lusso, Met Blue, Leather, FSH £16,995
96P Alfa 155 2.0 TS, Met Plum, ESR, FSH £13,995
95M Alfa 155 1.8 TS Silverstone, Red, ESR, Rear Spoiler £9,995
94L Alfa 33 1.7ie, Red, Electric Windows £8,995

SIDLOW, HORLEY • 01293 820110
97P Alfa 164 3.0 V6 Super Lusso, Silver, Leather ..... P.O.A.
96P Alfa 155 2.0 TS, Red, Sport Pack, Elec. Sunroof, £17,495
96P Alfa 146 2.0ti, Red, Alloys, CD Player £14,995
96P Alfa 145 Cloverleaf, Proteo Red, CD Player £14,750
96P Alfa 155 1.8 Twin Spark, Red, Alloys, Sunroof £12,750

'The Beer family has probably forgotten more than most MG dealers will ever know'

Eve-Ann Prentice visits a village garage that is the centre of a classic marque's history from start to finish

ROBIN MAYES

Sydney Beer, left, and Malcolm with part of their unique MG collection, including a 1930 18/80 MK2, left, the 1961 Jacobs Midget Sydney used to race and the MGB GT V8 in which Malcolm competes

The fading photograph on the wall of Sydney Beer's family garage shows former world champion Phil Hill at the steering wheel of Beer's single-seater MG K3 at Donington Park in 1980 while a younger, lither Beer stands gesticulating alongside.

"I was quicker than him in those days," the now 79-year-old says wryly.

Sydney and his son, Malcolm, own what appears at first sight to be a small picturesque garage in the chocolate-box village of Houghton, near St Ives, Cambridgeshire which carries out MoTs and happens to have one or two MGs scattered about the forecourt.

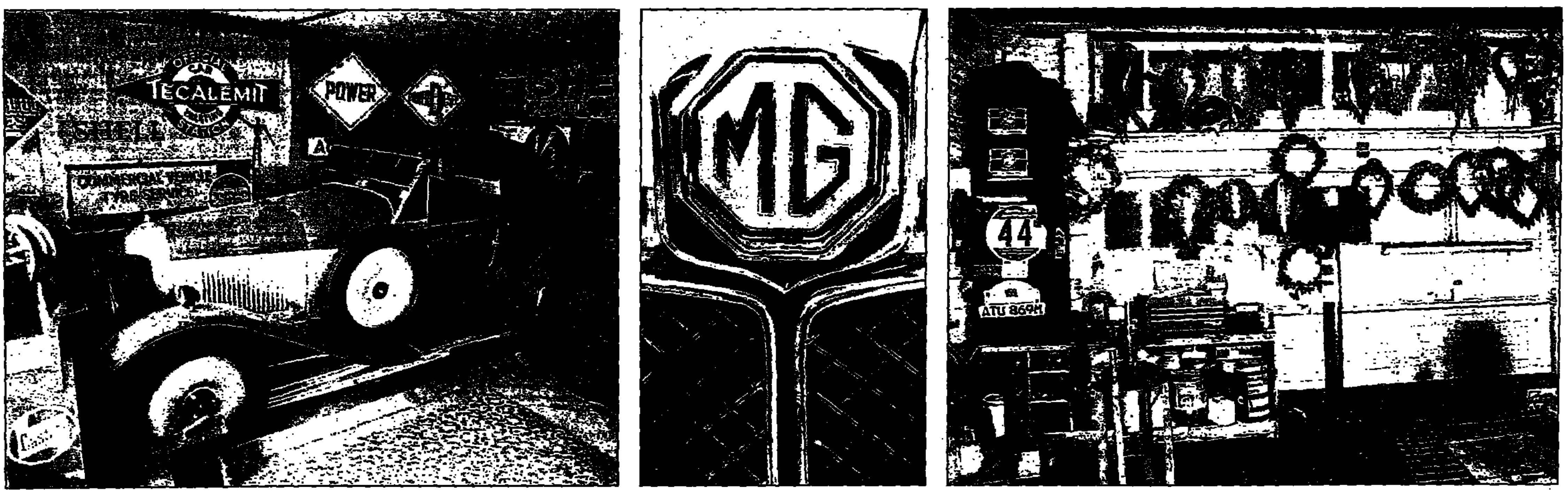
In fact, they are custodians of probably the most comprehensive private collection of MG cars and memorabilia in Britain, if not the world. And now they plan to open an MG museum at the former RAF base at nearby Alconbury, complete with a workshop using original machinery, facilities for teaching the young about driving, seminars and films from MG's archives.

The enterprise even has the oblique backing of John Major, vice-president of Peterborough Motor Club which supports the museum scheme. The MG Car Club is also enthusiastic about the plan, which is now waiting for the local authority to act.

Sydney Beer wants to be sure no one thinks he is boasting when he says he was faster than Hill: "That was to be expected, it was my car. I won about 150 races in my time and I suppose I got to about 130mph, but Hill was just doing a comparison check for an American magazine, not racing flat out."

The Beers' garage and the house behind it are crammed with laurels and cups to remind them of their racing victories (at 49, Malcolm already has twice as many wins under his belt as his father). But the deeper you go into the recesses of the house, the more Sydney's links with the MG become apparent. For Sydney was a close friend and confidant of John Thornley, the company's managing director through its boom years, and now Sydney owns Thornley's old desk, meticulously handwritten ledgers and office furniture dating from the era of Cecil Kimber, MG's founder, along with a multitude of other equipment and original machinery which he wants to put in the museum.

The MG Motor Car Museum would include the Beer family's collection of 60 or so cars, with models ranging from the beginnings at Oxford to the closure at Abingdon in 1980. "When the factory was closed we bought a lot of the stuff," says Sydney. All the early types of racing car are represented and engines from the earliest to the O series. The only crash-tested MG to escape the crusher has also found sanctuary with the Beers.


A glorious past in a Cambridgeshire garage: from left, a 1925 Bullnose 14/28, the famous six-sided logo, and some of the Beers' victory laurels, which Malcolm's daughter Heather may one day add to

Most of the collection is in storage, but two venerable examples are given house room at the garage: a 1925 14/28 Bullnose, which has been in the family for 25 years, and a 1929 18/80 Mark II. Out on the forecourt is Malcolm's white 1974 MGB GT V8 which he races, and a 1956 MGB known as Old Faithful which has won more international and national events than any other MGB.

One of the main aims of the museum, which would be operated by a trust established by the Beer family and Huntingdonshire District Council, is to teach the young. The council says it is keen to see the museum established, but cannot put a timescale to an opening because it has not yet decided how the former RAF site at Alconbury will be developed as a whole. "There is very strong support from the district council," says Tony Davies, the council's head of leisure services.

Sydney Beer is quietly scathing about modern racing and hopes the museum will transmit some of what he sees as his generation's more affectionate attitude towards the sport to today's teenagers. He plans to hold courses to teach the young "roadcraft" and "enable young people to develop interests around motor cars, perhaps reducing the incidence of joy-riding and other offences.

"It's the person with the most bullshit and bounce, the idiots with tons of money who make it to the top in motor racing nowadays," he says with a wink. "I think Damon Hill's a damned good chap, though."

A workshop using old machinery will be set up at the museum, to undertake old-fashioned techniques such as white metalling and line boring.

"The Beer family has probably forgotten more than most MG dealers will ever know in a lifetime," said one customer visiting the garage for an MoT for an aged Jaguar.

Both father and son showed a talent for the extraordinary from the earliest days of their driving careers. Sydney passed his test just nine days after the test was first introduced in 1935, while Malcolm passed on his seventeenth birthday. Malcolm's precocious aptitude for winning came just two days later.

"After Malcolm passed his test on the Friday, we went to get him a racing licence from the RAC in Belgrave Square," says Sydney. "We entered him for a historic race meeting at Brands Hatch on the Sunday and he won the lap record in a Q Type MG."

Now Malcolm's children, Adrian, 14, and Heather, nearly 15, have had their first taste of go-karting and a horse-riding. Heather has already shown a taste for following in the family racing tradition.

Sydney gazes proudly again at the picture of himself with Hill: "He tried lots of cars that day, but he liked mine best of all."

MG FACTS

- **EIGHTY** per cent of postwar MGs were exported.
- **AN** all-independent suspension MGB was built in 1935. The 750cc single-seater R Type had backbone chassis and torsion bars. After initial successes, Herbert Austin and William Morris stopped all racing in 1935.
- **A PROTOTYPE** replacement for the MGB and the Midget, the EX234, was built in the 1960s but all money in British Leyland went into the Triumph TR7.
- **IN 1966** an MGB won the 24-hour Nurburgring event overall.
- **PHIL HILL** was the fastest man in an MG at 254mph.
- **MORE MGs** were exported to America than Triumphs and Jaguars combined.
- **IN 1931** the MG was the first 750cc car to exceed 100mph. In 1950 a 350cc MG topped 120mph.

Expert advice: Sydney Beer with American racing ace Phil Hill in a MG K3 at Donington Park in 1980

The design team in 1956 with the MG EX179, part of the Beers' photographic record of the marque

Sydney and Malcolm with Adrian Beer in a R type MG and Sydney's MGB GTV8 at Silverstone in 1994

BMW AUTHORISED DEALERS

BMW AUTHORISED DEALERS (NOW ON-LINE)

For an Approved Used Car brochure and details of your nearest dealer call **0800 325600** or E-Mail via the BMW UK Web site **http://www.bmw.co.uk**

Approved Used Cars

BMW APPROVED USED CARS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM BMW AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS A SELECTION OF WHICH ARE SHOWN BELOW

Cotswold

96P 740iL Oxford Green, Total Spec, 4K	£ POA
95M 740i A Orient Blue, A/C, Lthr, ASC, 15K	£34,995
96P 735 A Calypso Red, A/C, Lthr, 9K	£39,995
96P 728i A Barritz Blue, M/S Alloys, Ex-Demo	£35,995
93L M5 Mugello Red, A/C, Lthr, 41K	£27,995
93L 540i Auto Sterling Silver, De-Chrome, 25K	£21,495
93K 540i Auto Calypso Red, Air Con, 45K	£18,495
94M 530i Auto Cosmos/Leather, 35K	£22,995
96N 528i ASE Calypso Red, Lthr, Alloys, 800m	£34,995
94M 525i ASE Tour Calypso, A/C, E/Seats, 34K	£21,995
94M M3 Conv Daytona Violet/Leather, 40K	£32,995
94L M3 Cpe Arctic Silver, ESR, Alloys, 26K	£27,995
95N 328i Coupe Cosmos, ESR, Alloys, 17K	£24,995
95N 328i Tour Boston Green, F/Col, 20K	£24,995
92K 325i Auto Alpine, ESR, Alloys, 19K	£15,995
96N 320i Tour Madeira Violet, R/Rails, 13K	£22,995
96P 318 TDS SE Arctic Silver, ESR, Alloys	£18,995
95N 318i SE Samoa Blue, Alloys, ESR, 29K	£15,995
94M 318i SE Calypso Red, Alloys, ESR, 21K	£15,995
94L 318i SE Arctic Silver, Alloys, ESR, 38K	£14,995

Over 45 Used Cars Available

Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Telephone: 01242 578838

Open 7 days a week Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm

Stephen James

Clock Parade, London Road
Enfield EN2 6JG

93L	730i V8 A Oxford/Silver Lthr, Excellent Spec, 32K	£22,495
96N	328i ASE Arctic Silver/Black Lthr, V/H/Spec, 15K	£26,995
92J	320i A Red/Anth Cloth, Good Spec, 48K	£11,995
96N	M3 Evo Conv Estoril/Grey Lthr, Very Good Spec	£33,995
96N	M3 Evo Cpe Techno Silver Lthr, High Spec, 6K	£38,495
95M	M3 Cpe Cosmos Blk/Silver Lthr, Good Spec, 17K	£30,995
94M	M3 Cpe Daytona Violet/Grey 1/2 Lthr, G/Spec, 37K	£26,995
95N	328i M Conv Morea Green/Grey Lthr, G/Spec, 12K	£32,495
95N	328i Cpe M Boston Green/Beige Lthr, H/Spec, 9K	£26,495
95N	328i Cpe M Morea Green/Turquoise, G/Spec, 12K	£23,995
94M	325i Cpe M Montreal/Grey Lthr, Very G/Spec, 35K	£19,995
96N	325i TDS ASE Cosmos/Grey Lthr, High Spec, 10K	£22,995
97P	325i TDS Tour A Arctic/Black Lthr, V/H/Spec, 5K	£ POA
96P	323i ASE Boston Green/Grey Lthr, H/Spec, 2K	£25,495
95M	320i A Cpe Arctic Grey/Grey Lthr, G/Spec, 38K	£18,995
93L	320i Cpe M Red/Beige Cloth, Good Spec, 37K	£16,495
95M	320i M Saloon Red/Anthracite, Very Low Mileage	£16,995
96P	318i S A Cpe Arctic/Black 1/2 Lthr, V/H/Spec, 3K	£24,995
95N	318i S M Cpe Montreal Grey Lthr, V/G/Spec, 23K	£18,495
95N	318i S M Cpe Madeira/Grey Cloth, Good Spec, 3K	£16,995
94L	318i S M Cpe Arctic/Anth Cloth, Good Spec, 53K	£15,995
92K	318i S M Cpe Diamond Black/Anth Cloth, 50K	£14,995
92K	318i S M Cpe Diamond Black/Anth Cloth, 59K	£13,995
95N	318i S M Cpe Boston/Grey Cloth, G/Spec, 33K	£18,995
96P	318i SE M Arctic/Anth Cloth, High Spec, 8K	£20,995
95M	318i SE M Calypso/Anth, Good Spec, 12K	£16,495
96P	316i ASE Boston/Silver Cloth, High Spec, 10K	£19,495
95N	316i SE M Cosmos/Silver Cloth, Good Spec, 12K	£17,495
94L	316i M Cpe Montreal/Violet Blue Cloth, 13K	£16,495
95M	316i Compact Montreal/Sand Grey, G/Spec, 14K	£13,995
95M	318Ti Compact Calypso/Anth, Lux Pack, 57K	£14,495
96N	316i Compact Montreal/Sand Grey, Lux Pack, 11K	£17,495

Please call for our full stock list

0181 367 2626 Mon-Sat

0860 855850 Evenings and weekends

Hungerford Garages

95(N) **BMW 740i Auto Arctic** Grey, black leather, ASC, Comfort Seats, PDC, a/c, 25,500 miles ... £38,995

98(N) **BMW 728i Auto Oxford** Green, sand beige leather, a/c, 12,500 miles ... £33,995

95(N) **BMW 530i V8 Petrol** Mica, light grey leather, sports seats, a/c, M-tech susp, alarm, stereo, 14,000 miles ... £27,495

96(P) **BMW 318i Convertible** Boston Green, electric hood, stereo, 8,000 miles ... £24,495

94(M) **BMW 325 TDS SE Diesel** Arctic Grey, digital phone, BMW Rad/Cass & CD, mudflaps, alarm, armrest, 44,156 miles ... £17,495

01488 682772

L&C

3 SERIES

95M 316i Comp ESR, 25K	£13,495
95M 316i SE Blue, 24K	£15,495
95M 316i ASE Morea, CD	£15,995
95M 316i Comp ASE Blue	£15,995
96P 316i Cpe Cosmos	£17,995
93L 318i 4 Dr Man Arctic	£10,995
92K 318 Design Conv Blue	£14,995
94L 318i S Cpe Montreal	£14,995
93L 318i A Calypso, ESR	£15,495
94M 318i S Cpe ESR, 29K	£16,995
95N 318i S Cpe Black, 10K	£18,995
95M 320 Conv A Black	£24,995
94M 325i Conv High Spec	£25,995
96N 328i M Tour Boston	£25,495
96N 328i Cpe H Spec, 9K	£24,995
95N 328i Cpe Morea, A C	£23,495
95N 328i A Cpe H.Spec L	£26,995
95N 328i Cpe Spt Lthr, ESR	£27,495
96P 328i A T P Schnitzer	£27,995
95N 325i Conv A Boston	£32,995
96P 328i Conv Madeira	£34,995
96P 328i A Conv 97 Model	£34,995
96N M3 Evo Conv A D	£40,995

5 SERIES

93L 518i Auto SE, 26K	£13,995
93L 525 Tour SE A/C, 30K	£15,995
93L 540i A Blue, A C, Lthr	£23,995

7/8 SERIES

95N 728i Oxford, Lthr, A C	£33,995
93L 730 SE A V8 Calypso	£20,995
94M 840 Calypso/Lthr, 20K	£41,995

7 DAYS 01892 548877
24 HRS 0836 363005

ALPINA

B12 5.7 – 7 SERIES – 387BHP – 175+mph 6.2 sec to 60mph – F1 style fingertip gearchange

B10 4.6 – 5 SERIES – 340BHP – 170+mph 5.5 sec to 60mph – F1 style fingertip gearchange

B3 3.2 – 3 SERIES – 257BHP – 162+mph 5.9 sec to 60mph – F1 style fingertip gearchange Coupe, Saloon, Convertible or Touring

96P B3 3.2 TOURING SWITCHTRONIC Total spec, very special 4T £P.O.A.

96P B3 3.2 COUPE SWITCHTRONIC Highly distinctive 1T £P.O.A.

96P B3 3.2 MAN Superb Specification 5T £42000

95M B3 3.0 SALOON SWITCHTRONIC Leather and air conditioning 18T £35850

84B B9 COUPE MAN (6 SERIES) Rare and collectable car 21T £16000

Sytner

Tel: Nick Godfrey 0115 924 1234
Evenings: 0370 355 726

BMW 750i AUTO

OCTOBER 96P, 7030 MILES, CALYPSO RED, SAND BEIGE FULL LEATHER, CLASSIC STYLE ALLOYS, TOP HI-FI, £56,850

SYTNER SHEFFIELD
0114 275 5077

Sytner

WHY TEAR OUT?

It's Sunday, relax! Why not call the Nation's No.1 used car specialist? Let us describe some of the finest top specification BMWs. Ask us to structure a part exchange deal over the phone... to arrange a tailor-made funding plan...to deliver to your home or office. Why tear out indeed?

91J 850i AUTO One owner	34T	£34000
97P 840Ci High Spec	5T	£P.O.A.
96P 840Ci AUTO 4.4 Mega Spec	2T	£51000
95N 840Ci AUTO Good Spec	7T	£44850
94M 840Ci AUTO Good Spec	38T	£36750
97P 740i AUTO Good Spec	5T	£P.O.A.
96P 740i AUTO Good Spec	9T	£42850
94M 740i AUTO Good Spec	17T	£34950
93K 740i AUTO Ultimate Spec	46T	£22800
96P 735i AUTO High Spec	20T	£36000
95M 730i AUTO GSM phone	41T	£27000
96N 728i AUTO Good Spec	21T	£29850
96P 540i AUTO NEW SHAPE Massive Spec	6T	£44350
95N 540i AUTO C/seats, ESR, air cond	28T	£30500
94M 540i AUTO Mega Spec	48T	£26500
96N 530i AUTO TRG Leather, air cond, CD	6T	£31250
92J 535i SPORT Leather, air cond, cruise	41T	£10500
96N 528i AUTO SE High Spec	22T	£32000
93L 525i AUTO Good Spec	36T	£16500
94 528i SE TRG Good Spec	29T	£18850
ALPINA – CHOICE OF 9 SEE SEPARATE ADVERT		
96P M3 EVO CONV High Spec	5T	£42500
95N M3 CONV High Spec	25T	£36500
96N M3 EVO COUPE Leather, air cond	14T	£38000
95M M3 GT Very Special Car	31T	£31850
95M M3 COUPE Massive Spec	13T	£33500
94M M3 COUPE Good Spec	35T	£29850
95M M3 COUPE High Spec	40T	£29995
93L M3 COUPE Air cond, ESR, spoiler	53T	£25500
96N M3 EVO 4DR Leather, air cond	4T	£37850
96P 328i CONV Good Spec	9T	£33000
96N 328i CONV High Spec	20T	£30000
95N 328i CONV Very High Spec	26T	£32000
94L 325i CONV Interesting Spec	15T	£25500
92J 325i AUTO SE Leather, air cond	54T	£14750
96N 320i AUTO CONV High Spec	7T	£26850
94M 318i CONV Good Spec	19T	£23850
98H Z1 The Ultimate	only 11T	£26000

Above a selection, a further 200 cars available

Sytnerdirect 0115 924 1144

BMW WANTED

1ST Call Scotthall. Britains best BMW buyers 0468 166444 / 0831 791979

3 Series Coupe & Tourings 93-97 Required. 01302 863333

87 95 Premium Prices paid for all low mlge BMW'S Mole Valley Motor Group 01372 749090

EVOLUTION Convertible Urgently Required 01635 860504

HIGH Mileage BMW's Wanted. We Collect. Cash waiting. 01227 277367, 0860 541639 T

WANTED Wanted, 850 840 750 M3 M5 M6 etc, any miles!! 01628 660413 / 0831 123911

WE BUY QUALITY HIGH SPEC BMW WITH FULL SERVICE HISTORY **ANYWHERE**

Milcars 0831 722227 (7 DAYS)

Sytner

We require the very best high specification, low mileage BMWs and Alpinas. Please telephone Adrian Hill for an enthusiastic response.

01206 231540
or 0385 737969

CLASSIC CARS

BRISTOL 410
1969, Maroon
Rebuilt engine,
front & rear suspension & brakes.
Stainlesssteel exhaust.
Repainted, rechromed,
new wood & carpets.
Service record.
£18,900.
Tel: office 0171 417 8844

AUSTIN Healey 3000 MK3 Colorado Red, Black Leather, Overdrive, Wire Wheels, An Unrestored Time-Warp example, Full History £24,000. Graypaul 01509 232233

E-TYPE CENTRE Buying or selling Contact Us. At Least 50 E-Types In Stock, Sensibly Priced. Tel: 01827 373247 (Midlands)

E-TYPE
V12 Roadster, 1973, manual, primrose, black interior, 39,000 miles, £38,950.
Tel. Notts
0115 967 9586

JAGUAR E-TYPE
V12, 2+2 1971, white, black leather, CWW, *professionally restored*, excellent.
£11,995.
0973 721435 or
0181 7681111.

E-TYPE
ROADSTER V12
ser III
1973 manual, Azure Blue/Black int, 64,000 miles, some hist.
Exc. cond £26,950
0181 731 7799.

TRIUMPH
GT6 Mark III. White, 1972, Rotoflex, Tax free, 1 owner 24 years, FSH, beautiful condition, all gaps perfect, £5,800,
01386 553926.

LOTUS
Elan + 2S
1971, Red.
New chassis, sills
4 Koni adjustable shocks, wheels. Engine rebuilt with sports cams.
Suspension & brakes reconditioned. *Service record.*
£7,200.
Tel: office 0171 417 8844

MERCEDES
250. 1969, 54k miles, 2 *owners*, *beautiful*, £5,250 with orig reg CGN 1H, £4,500 without.
Tel. 01767 677057

Rolls Royce
CORNICHE 1981
One Owner, 65,000 miles
Willow Gold. Stone leather piped Brown, Brown Everflex roof, FSH
Totally Immaculate & Original.
£35,000
Tel (daytime) **0181 421 8686**
Tel (eve) **01923 822844**

BMW

Z3
UK model. Met silver, red leather, Z alloys, delivery mileage.
£24,950.
01282 772618.

Z3 AUTO
Black, beige leather, Z wheels, heated door mirrors
£27,750ono.
Tel. 01737 219955
or 0181 949 7620

520i SE
1992 45K. One owner. Metallic black de-cromed, black leather upholstery. High quality stereo & alarm system. Full BMW Service History. Excellent condition Few like this for private sales. Phone Today!
£12,850
01322 525550

Z1
G reg Black with Camoflage hide 34,000 miles FBMWSH 1year MOT alarm stereo *Immaculate condition.*
£21,995
01992 450191

318 Conv.
AUTO
95 M, Cobalt grey met, black elec hood, black lthr int. 9k mls. FBMWSH, immac cond.
£23,000
01279 654052 (h)/
0171 842 3210 (o).

325i
COUPE
94M, auto, 25k mls, Samoa blue met, black lthr, x spoke alloys, elec s/rf, on board computer, rem alarm, CD, r/spoiler, FBMWSH, 1 lady owner, absolutely immac.
£19,975
01277 261155.

318i coupe, 95M, 24,000 miles, Red/ Anthracite interior FBMWSH with transferable warranty, 1 owner, excellent condition. Private sale £13,900. Tel days: 0171 722 7608 evenings 01279 771 368

320i Convertible man, '89F, Silver/ Blue, PAS, B/w, alloys, FSH 77k £9,450. 01344 845755. T

840 Saloon or Touring Required With Good Specification 01949 861289

1994 L reg 320iSE auto, Calypso Red, 4 door, FSH, 28,000 mls, category 1 alarm system - £15,450. 0181 644 0660.

M3 Cabriolet Urgently Required. Low Mileage and Good Specification Wanted 01949 861289

Z3 Atlanta blue/red leather immediate delivery £26,000 ono. Priv sale. 0468 798106.

Z3 Red, Brand new, on board computer, offers over £24,000. 01438 821149/0850 789297

Z3
Silver / Black lthr, full house, ready now, delivery mls.
Offers over
£29,995.
0973 255573

Z3
Met. lagoon green, beige lthr. Delivery 2 wks.
£26,500
01383 820747/
0131 3396087 (eve).

523 SE
May 96, glacier green met, Black leather, sports wheels, ESR, as new.
£29,950 ono.
01603 867766
anytime

316i
J reg. Black, new service / Mot, FSH, manual, 65K, VGC, Bargain
£7,750
0171 267 3906

325i
Motorsport
conv
Auto 91H, Sebring grey, full lthr, 51k mls, FBMWSH, MOT till Feb.
£14,000
. No offers
0161 488 4166 (d)/
01625 860839 (e).

BMW OWNERS
COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE
***FROM* £150**
Low Cost Insurance for BMW Cars
0117 929 4971
Office Hours
Internet: http://www.hhh.co.uk
Hill House Hammond
The Motor Insurance Specialists

EXECUTIVE CARS

QUALITY USED CARS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

94L Rover 620 2.0 SLi 4dr Man, Red, E/S/Roof, PAS, Radio/Cass, 18K	£9,245
95N BMW 320 2.0 SEi 4dr Man, Blue, E/S/Roof, Air Con, PAS, Alloys, Radio, CD Player, 19K	£19,265
95N Grand Cherokee Jeep 4X4 4.0 Ltd Auto, Lthr Int, Air Con, PAS, Radio/Cass, 25K	£18,295
95N Mondeo 2.0 GLX Man, White, S/Roof, PAS, Radio/Cass, 28K	£8,975
93K Renault 19 1.8 16V 3dr Man, Blue, Lthr Int, S/Roof, PAS, Alloys, Radio/Cass, 19K	£7,425
95M Audi A6 2.8 Quattro 4dr Man, Blue, Lthr Int, Air Con, PAS, Multiplay CD, 36K	£17,795
95M VWGolf VR6 2.8 5dr Man, Black, E/S/Roof, PAS, Alloys, Radio/Cass, Multiplay CD, 41K	£14,675
95N Land Rover Discovery 2.5 Tdi 7 Seater 3dr Man, Met Grey, PAS, Radio/Cass, 23K	£16,745
93L BMW 525 SE 4dr Man, Met Green, E/S/Roof, PAS, Alloys, 53K	£13,445
96N Mercedes E320 Coupe 2dr Auto, Met Red, Lthr Int, E/S/Roof, PAS, Alloys, Radio, CD Player, 6K	£39,950
96P Audi A4 1.9 TDI 4dr Man, E/S/Roof, PAS, Radio/Cass 3K	£18,275
96P Audi A4 1.9 TDI 4dr Man, E/S/Roof, PAS, Radio/Cass, 2K	£18,325
93L Mazda MX5 1.6 2dr Man, Lthr Int, PAS, Radio/Cass, 36K	£13,075
96N Astra 1.8 Sport 5dr Man, Met Grey, S/Roof, PAS, Alloys, Radio/Cass, 12K	£9,700
96P BMW 318 SE 4dr Man, E/S/Roof, PAS, Alloys, Radio, CD Player, 8K	£18,275

CALL 0645 260260

FOR DETAILS OF THE ABOVE EX-LEASE VEHICLES

12 months RAC warranty, full service history plus 6 months road fund licence on all vehicles.
Car Finder Service available.
Monday - Friday 8.30am-6.00pm
Saturday - Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm

Swan National
Member HSBC Group
Swan National Ltd

FERRARI AUTHORISED

MELBOURNE GARAGE LIMITED

1996 456GT *LHD Blu Le Mans with Crema* . 6,800 km
1995 456GT RHD Silver *with Blue* ..... 2,000 miles
1995 456GT LHD Canna Fucile with Crema .... NEW
Please note the Channel Islands are TAX-FREE.
Please telephone Julie D. Kelly on
(01534) 862709
Sole Distributor for Ferrari in the Channel Islands

Graypaul
A Sytner Company

LIMITED SERIES

90H F40	2T	£195,000
91H F40 (1 OWNER)	6T	£185,000

12 CYLINDER

94L 456GT	10T	£112,500
94L 512TR	5T	£85,000
90H TESTAROSSA	2T	£67,000
90H TESTAROSSA	6T	£65,750
91H TESTAROSSA	10T	£63,000
89F TESTAROSSA	10T	£58,000

F355

97P F355 SPIDER (ROSSO)		£P.O.A.
97P F355 SPIDER (NERO)		£P.O.A.
97P F355 GTS (GIALLO)		£P.O.A.
97P F355 GTS (ROSSO)		£P.O.A.
96N F355 GTS (ROSSO)	4T	£97,500
96N F355 BERLINETTA	2T	£95,000
95M F355 GTS (ROSSO)	11T	£87,000
95M F355 GTS (NERO)	9T	£87,000
95M F355 BERLINETTA	13T	£85,000

348

94M 348GTS	3T	£67,000
93L 348TB	8T	£60,000
91H 348TS	11T	£53,000
90H 348TS	15T	£50,500

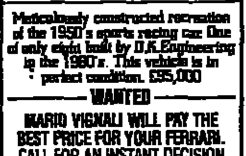
MONDIAL CABRIOLET

94L MONDIAL T CABRIOLET 2+2 (ROSSO, CREMA)	5T	£51,750
88F MONDIAL 3.2 CABRIOLET 2+2 (ROSSO, CREMA)	6T	£38,750

CLASSICS

1984 512 BBi	22T	£65,000

FERRARI TESTAROSSA



Meticulously constructed recreation of the 1950's sports racing car. One of only eight built by D.K.Engineering in the 1980's. This vehicle is in perfect condition. £95,000

WANTED

MARIO VIGNALI WILL PAY THE BEST PRICE FOR YOUR FERRARI. CALL FOR AN INSTANT DECISION

01509 23 22 33
SUNDAY 10–4

FERRARI AUTHORISED

ARE you buying or selling Ferrari, so am I 100% of the time. Contact Richard Roger at Stratstone of Wilmslow on 01625 522222 Mon - Sun.

Lancaster
COLCHESTER

96 F50 Rosso	P.O.A.
90G Testarossa Rosso/ Crema, 6,500mls	£59,995
94L 348 Spider Rosso/Crema 11,000mls	£58,995
93L 348 Spider Chiaro/Crema 12,000mls	£57,995
92J 348ts Nero.Crema. 18,000mls	£51,995
90H 348TS Rosso/Crema. 11,000mls	£51,995
90H 348 TS Rosso/Crema. 21,000 miles	£49,995
84B 308 GTS QV Rosso/Nero. 36,000 miles	£34,995

Ferrari
Contact Steve Cocker or Steve Hurn
01206 855500
www.lancasterplc.com/colchester/ferrari

WE WANT YOUR FERRARI 355
LANCASTERS ARE BEST BUYERS FOR YOUR FERRARI £2,000,000 to spend. 1987-97 CALL
Richard Bramwell 0831 791979

FERRARI

348 Spider Convertible 94 M Giallo/Black hide aircon 12K mls FFSH 1onr £71,950. Contact Howard Ganderton or Peter Cowan of Cheltenham 01242 523611/0831 769521T

456GT Automatic 96P Blue Le Mans, Crema Leather, 1 Owner, 2,000 miles £POA Graypaul 01509 232233

512TR 93K, Rosso/ Crema, 9,000 mls, £82,995 Lancaster Bow 0181 983 4444

AERO MANIA
Performance Car Club · Self Drive Hire
FERRARI 348ts
The Ultimate Sportscar
For Daily Hire
Also TVR Chimaera & Mercedes SLK 230
Join our exclusive car club now!!
For colour brochure and details telephone
07000 280280

FERRARI FOR SALE
F355 GTB
Rosso Corsa/Nero 1995, 12k, FSH, Triple CD, Eagle F1 Tyres. Incredible car. Showroom cond.
£84,000
Dealer facilities
Robin Brundle or Mark Roberts
01553 811811

FERRARI

F355 Berlinetta (LHD) 1995 Giallo Modena, 1 Owner, 6,000 Miles, £64,000. 0468 525050 T

F40 (90) 1onr F/FSH sports ex/susp 11k £159,950 Brian Classic Ltd 01565 830423

F348 TS or TB Urgently Required With Low Mileage 01949 861289

308GTB
Quattro Valvole, '85, red/black, LHD, 19,000km, £24,950.
Any inspection welcome.
0410 311177
(private).

400i
Auto
64,000 miles
Yellow/ Black hide, Immobiliser, air con, New tyres &belts
1980. £15,000.
Tel: 01803 832687

FERRARI WANTED

1ST Call Lancaster. Best Buyers of 8 Cylinder Models. Call 0831 344705 or 0860 308333

WANTED 308, 328, 348, Testarossa. Any miles/ cond. 01628 660413 or 0831 123911 24hrs

FIAT

MASSIVE Savings on Brand New *Fiats for Private Individuals.* Tel: 01480 812239 T

FORD

ALL Ford cars nearly new from Scorpio to Fiesta. Lowest prices 01566 652767/01733 352500

APPROXIMATELY 30 Scorpio's in stock at any one time eg. Ghia 2.0 4 Door Auto 96P, 5,000 mls, £14,995. Ghia 2.0 Estate Auto 95N, air con, cruise, £14,995. Ultima 2.0 4 Door 96P, 4,000 Mls, £15,995. Ultima 2.3 4 Door Auto 96P, Choice of 2, 4,500 Mls £17,500. Ultima 2.0 4 Door Auto 96P, Leather, 8,000 Mls £16,995. Ultima 2.0 Estate Auto 96N, 9,000 Mls, £16,995. Ghia 2.9 12V Estate Auto 96P, 1,100 Mls, Air Con, Cruise £17,500. Ultima 2.9 12V Estate Auto 96N, 8,000 Mls £17,500. Choice of 6 Ultima 2.9 12V 4 Door N/P Reg. Leather From £16,500. Ultima 2.9 24V Estate 96N, 11,500 Mls £17,995. Phone with all your Ford requirements 01530 560056 / 01530 814440 Sun

SCORPIO
(N) Ultima 2.9. 12V.
State blue. lthr. S/R,
air cond, cruise control, 1 owner, 13k m. £15,000.
01424 212470.

FORD

GALAXY 2.8i GLX P Reg 7 seater Fleuri red. 5,000 miles extended warranty, lots of extras £19,500. 01603 506988.

GRANADA 2.9 24V Scorpio 4 Door Auto 94L, Cayman Blue, Leather £10,495. Tel: 01530 560056 T

NEW Model Mondeo 2.5 24V Ghia Estate 96N Electric Current, 9K Mls, Aircon, £16,750. Tel: 01530 560056 T

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WANTED

1988 1995 Top prices paid for all low mileage 4x4's. Mole Valley Motor Group 01372 749090.

Discoveries, Range Rovers (New Shape) **& Defenders.**
Low mileage.
Top Prices Paid.
01636 613302
01427 881052
01623 658034
Anytime

GENERAL

SINCLAIR C 5. Electric car. Hardly used! With 2 batteries. £1000ono. 0171 3742748.

HONDA

AERODECK 2.0 ES.
Auto, 1995 (M) FHSH.
1 lady owner.
Only 17,000 mls from new.
Aircon, cruise con, headlamp wash, elec mirror, sunroof, windows, CD, full remote central locking alarm and immobiliser.
Excellent condition
£12,750.
Tel: 01782 218833(h)
No canvassers

PRELUDE 2.2 Auto.
1992 K. New shape.
Red. Air con.
Many extras.
Low mileage.
As new. £10,500.
Tel: 0181 444 8828.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

XJ12
6.0 93L, Arctic Blue
Beige interior
Unmarked beautiful condition
76,000 miles, new tyres
Full Jaguar service history
Luxury motoring
£14,950.
01782 373985(h)
or 01384 482532(o)

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

XJR
Supercharged
Dark Green
1995, 25,000 miles
Unmarked perfect condition
Harmon Kardon CD stacker
FSH
£35,000.
Tel: 01892 852147

XJS
Convertible V12.
Electric hood, new MoT, 107,000 miles,
First reg. *1990*,
£11,000
Tel. 01730 895576

XJ6
Sovereign 4L Auto. L reg, metallic red, cream lthr, air con, 37.5k.
£19,750.
0121 378 0282

XJS
V12 88 36,000 from new FISH air con, sun roof. £9950.
Tel: 0181 508 2783/502 4455.

3.2 SPORT
SUPERB
M, only 8,600 mls, Firenco red, oatmeal lthr, a/c.
£27,500
0171 727 5834.

E-TYPE
Series III Roadster Sept '74 N reg. Red, CWW, Black upholstery, 34K. Restored by Vicarage, all bills etc.
£45,000 ovno.
Business Hrs
Tel. 0116 2750057
P Humphrey or
C J Riley.

DRIVING TUITION

What price safety?

£39

You can become an advanced motorist or motorcyclist, for just £39? Drive with greater skill and pleasure, plus benefit particularly from lower insurance and motoring costs.

For further information and the address of your Local IAM Group *return the coupon* Freepost

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

I.A.M. Freepost, SW1965, 359 Chiswick High Rd., London, W4 4BR.
Tel: 0181-994 4403 Fax: 0181-994 9249 or www.iam.org.uk

Name ______________________ TIMES 7 - 8
Address ______________________
____
______________________ Post Code ______

Reg. Charity No. 249002

CLASSIC CARS

E-TYPE
1972
BRG, CWW.
£19,500
(o) 01753 682362/
0860 518947.

JAGUAR
3 Type 3.8 FHC red with red leather, spokes, 23,000 miles, immaculate, taxed & MOT'd, good history all matching no.s. £25,000.
Tel: 01222 613090/
01222 350340.

JAGUAR
420G, 1967, 24,000 miles, original colour Black over gold, walnut & leather interior, fully operational factory fitted Webasto sunshine roof, 1 previous owner, FISH, A1 condition.
£12,950.
Tel: 0181 658 8927.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

SHOGUN
LWB, 95N, V6, 3.0, D.O.P. cd, bullbars, running boards, spots, tow bar, 19,000 miles.
£23,450 ono.
Tel: 01474 814268

Stratstone
HIGHGATE
26 North Hill,
Highgate N6 4QB
Tel: 0181 3485561
Mobile: 0370 738548

RANGE ROVER

94L 3.9 VOGUE SE A, Plymouth/Sable, 29T	£20995

DISCOVERY

96N TDI ES AUTO, Alta, 1T	£27995
95N TDI ES AUTO, EFS, Rioja/Granite, 30T	£22995
96P V8i S AUTO, Biarritz, 3T	£22995
95N V8i XS AUTO, Epsom, 13T	£22995
96 TDI S AUTO Choice of 3, From	£22495
96P TDI S MAN, Rioja, 17T	£21795
95N TDI S AUTO, Blue, TSH, FH, 15T	£21495
96N TDI 3DR M, Blue, 8T	£17995
94L TDI S AUTO, Blue, CD, AC, TSH, 29T	£19995
93L V8i S AUTO, Black, 35T	£15995

ROVER

MGF Choice of 4, From	£17495
96N 620Ti BRG, Pl Lmb, AC, 1T	£18995
96N 1.6i CAB Platinum, 9T	£14995
96N 1.6i CAB BRG, 8T	£13995
96P 416 Si Tahiti Blue, 1T	£12995

ALL CARS
PHYSICALLY ON SITE

JEEP

CHEROKEE 4.0 Ltd, 1992, LHD, auto, full options, only 26,000 miles, Mint Condition £13,950. 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

GRAND CHEROKEE
Laredo 4.0, black, P reg, no mileage, immediate delivery, only £25,995. Tel: 0802 225403.

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

Stratstone
MAYFAIR
Berkeley St. London W1

96P 4.6 HSE AUTO Biarritz/Granite, 5T	£41995
96N 4.6 HSE Avalon/Ash, 27K	£37995
96N 2.5 DSE AUTO Rioja/Granite, CD, 35T	£33995
97P 4.0 AUTO Rivera/Granite, AC, 6T	£30795
97P TDi AUTO Rioja/Saddle, AC, 6T	£30795
95M 4.0 SE AUTO Epsom/Granite, CD, 27T	£32995
94M 4.0 SE AUTO Montpellier/Granite, 37T	£29995
95N 2.5 DT MAN Biarritz/Granite, 35T	£25995

TAX FREE & DIPLOMATIC SALES ASSURED
Tel: 0171 629 4404
Sunday: 0468 505 672

Range Rovers For Sale

96N DSE auto, Black / Saddle, 7T mls, FSH	£35,750
95N HSE, Epsom / Grey, 29T mls, FSH	£34,900
95M HSE, Caprice / Grey, 28T mls, FSH	£34,500
93K Vogue SE, Plymouth Blue, 49T mls, FSH	£17,000
93K Vogue SE, Caspian, 52T mls, FSH	£17,000

Discovery For Sale

95N TDI ES, Blue, A/c, sunroof, 26T mls, FSH	£24,995
96P V8is Auto, Oxford, Tow pack, 8T mls, FSH	£25,500

Woburn
Land Rover Ltd
01525 290635 / 0378 333720

Lancaster

READING

DEFENDER

97P	90 CSW Rivera	P.O.A.
95N	90 Hard Top County	£13,995 + VAT
96P	110 S/Wagon Red	£16,995 + VAT

DISCOVERY COMMERCIAL

96N	TDi Silver, H Spec, 11T	£17,995+VAT
96P	Disco Commercial	£18,495+VAT

DISCOVERY

93L	TDi Base 3Dr Carmgada, 37T	£14,495
93L	TDi S Carmgada Green, 49T	£15,495
93L	TDi S Carmgada Green, 39T	£15,995
96N	TDi S Niagara, 8T	£22,995
96P	TDi S Rioja, 3T	£23,495
96N	TDi XS Caprice, 17T	£23,995
95N	TDi ES Niagara, 23T	£24,995
96N	TDi ES Black, 15T	£25,495
96P	TDi ES Epsom Green, 12T	£26,995
96P	TDi ES Epsom Green, 6T	£27,995
96P	TDi ES A Rioja, 11T	£28,995
95M	V8i ES Auto 44T	£21,495
96N	V8i S Auto 8T	£23,995
96P	V8i ES Auto 6T	£29,495

NEW RANGE ROVER

95M	4.6 HSE Niagara, 32T	£33,995
95M	4.6 HSE Rivera, 24T	£34,995
95M	4.6 HSE Epsom, 22T	£34,995
96N	4.6 HSE Silver, 11T V.O.	£38,995
96N	4.6 HSE Autobiography 26T	£39,995
96N	4.6 HSE Charlston, 6T	£40,995

01734 844664
0589 990725
www.lancasterplc.com/reading/landrover
Open Sunday 10am - 4pm

City of London

OUR CURRENT RANGE ROVER STOCK INCLUDES

95M	4.0 SE A White/Granite, 18T	£33,995
95M	4.6 HSE Epsom Green, 35T	£34,995
95M	4.6 HSE Epsom Green, 36T	£34,995
95N	4.6 HSE Epsom Green, 25T	£37,995
96N	4.6 HSE Avalon Blue, 16T	£38,985
96P	4.6 HSE Epsom Green, 10T	£42,995
96P	4.6 HSE Rivera Blue, 10T	£42,995

DISCOVERY STOCK INCLUDES

95M	TDi S Niagara Grey, 24T	£19,495
96P	TDi S Oxford Blue, 9T	£22,995
96P	TDi S Limited Edition, 8T	£23,995
96P	TDi S A Charlston Green	P.O.A.
96P	TDi S Coniston Green	P.O.A.
96P	TDi Epsom Green	P.O.A.
96P	TDi Rivera Blue	P.O.A.
97P	V8i ES A Rivera Blue, 7T	£28,995

Sundays For Demonstration
DEMONSTRATIONS NATIONWIDE
If the car for you is not listed, our locator system will find it for you!

0181 522 0023
0705 0015615
0976 705693
www.lancasterplc.com/citylandrover

DIRECT FROM YORKSHIRE...
ONE PHONE CALL BRINGS THE CAR OF YOUR CHOICE DIRECTLY TO YOUR DOOR

97P 4.6 HSE A, Epsom Green / Lightstone leather, 3T	£43,750
95N 4.6 HSE A, Beluga Black / Granite leather, lamb pads, 34T	£32,000
95M 4.6 HSE A, Epsom Green / Granite leather 39T	£31,850
97P 4.0 SE A, Beluga Black / Saddle Leather 4T	£37,000
96N 4.0 SE A, Epsom Green / Lightstone leather, ESR, HSE wheels, 9T	£34,000
97P 2.5 DSE A, Niagara / Lightstone leather, 18" Toplegend alloys, 1T	£38,000
96N 2.5 DSE A, Epsom Green / Saddle leather 10T	£33,750
95N 2.5 DSE A, Epsom Green / Granite Leather 46T	£31,500
93K VOGUE LSE A CLASSIC Westminster Grey / Dark Sable leather 46T	£17,500
94M 50R 3.7 Ti ES A, Oxford Carmgada / Tan leather 14T	£27,000
97P 50R TDi ES, Alai Silver / Granite Leather 5T	£27,750
96N 50R TDi ES, Rioja Red / Beige Leather 7T	£26,850
94M 50R TDi ES, Aspen Silver / Granite Leather 30T	£20,850
95N 50R TDi XS, Caprice / Granite leather 18T	£20,750
95N 50R TDi XS, Monza Red / Granite 1/2 Leather 20T	£20,750
96N 50R V8i S A, Alai Silver / Granite cloth, Freestyle 1T	£21,250
97P 50R TDi Arden, BRG / Beige, Wood Kit, 4T	£22,500
97P TDi S, Oxford Blue / Granite Cloth, Freestyle Choice 4T	£23,000

Hallamshire
0114 276 5655
A SYTNER COMPANY
SUNDAY 10 - 4

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE Laredo diesel LHD, New-del mls, full options + air con. *Cancelled order,* massive saving at £20,950. 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY best choice, keenest prices. Choice for Land Rovers freephone 0800 424414

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

H.R.OWEN

NEW RANGE ROVER

[illegible]

CLASSIC RANGE ROVER

[illegible]

DISCOVERY V8

[illegible]

DISCOVERY TDi

[illegible]

DEFENDER

[illegible]

OTHER MAKES

[illegible]

OPEN 7 DAYS
A40 Western Ave London
0181-992 2299

LAND ROVER

TDI ES auto, 1996(P), Epsom Green, 18,000 miles £26,500. SMC 01753 574266.

EUROCONTINENTAL CARS

NEW 97 LANDROVER
DISCOVERY TURBO DIESEL
FANTASTIC SAVINGS ON ALL MODELS WHY PAY MORE?
WE ALSO SUPPLY USED MODELS
CONTRACT HIRE
QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE
TEL 01703 470208 OR
FAX 01703 471707
PART EXCHANGE

DISCOVERY
TDis
Dec 94 (M), Montpellier red, 30k mls, FSH, 2 s/rfs, free style whls.
£16,750
01451 861217.

DISCOVERY
TDI ES Auto, 1994 M, Air Con, leather etc. Excellent condition, FLRSH, over £2k of every conceivable extra.
£17,500.
01628 667480

DISCOVERY
V8is N reg Red, air conditioning, CD stereo, 30,000 miles, FLRSH, excellent condition
£20,000
01827 830707

RANGE ROVER

4.6
HSE 96 N Epsom green excellent condition, FSH, 52,000 miles hence £31,500.
Tel: 0181 858 3568/
0831 381 481.

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE
N Reg Oct 1995.
Charcoal grey/black leather *interior. Only 18,000 miles.*
EC-approv.bull-bars Running-boards. Tow bar. Continental travel pack. Excellent cond. throughout. £40,000.
Tel: 0181 692 6564.
email:ainont@msl-uk.com

94M
4.2 vogue LSE auto. Autobiography, red/red grey leather, 18,000 miles, lady owner, FSH, £22,995.
Tel: 0181 506 1174.

RANGE ROVER
New model
4.6 HSE auto 96P reg, Biarritz blue flash granite leather, full specification, 9000 miles. Owner moving overseas. £40,995 ovno.
0181 9467949.

RANGE ROVER 4.0SE
Automatic 1996(N)
18,000 miles, Red Metallic / black leather, sunroof, CD, excellent condition
£31,950
Sorry no offers
Call Richard George
01296 615666
/mobile 0468 745965
Lexus Main Dealer

WANTED
NEW SHAPE
DSE or DT
Auto
Air con.
Phone any time:
01638 780130.

CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S USED ON THE FORECOURTS

SPARE PARTS

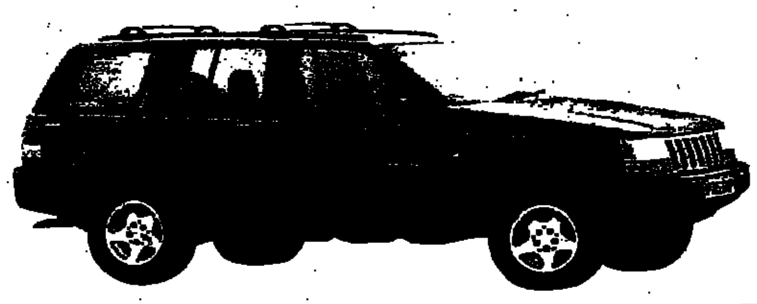
■ NEW MODELS from Citroën and Nissan will be launched at the Fleet Motor Show which runs from Tuesday to Friday at Silverstone. Citroën will be showing off its 2.1-litre turbodiesel and 3-litre V6 versions of the Xantia to the public for the first time and Nissan will have its Primera GT available for test drives. Fleetlease will have a simulator on which visitors can test their driving skills. More than 140 companies will be represented from leasing specialists to tyre fitters, including many of the main manufacturers and a number of firms marketing alternative-fuel vehicles. Information 0181-390 0203.

AA DRIVERS can easily save an average of £150 per year by shopping around for insurance, according to the latest British Insurance Premium Index from the AA. The survey confirms the upward trend in premiums that has been apparent since the initial impact of "direct" insurers, which forced all-round reductions, had worn off. The rise has been compounded by the increase in Insurance Premium Tax. The average comprehensive premium at £381.20 is up 3.9 per cent over the quarter while the average non-comprehensive — frequently taken by less experienced drivers — is £385.36, up 3.5 per cent.

Cross-country hero and city slicker

Alan Copps takes the Jeep Laredo to town

ROAD TEST



Jeep Laredo: the urban appeal may really be a childish instinct

When Chrysler introduced the Grand Cherokee, the upmarket version of the car that has done so much to re-establish the company's presence in Britain, just over a year ago, I had the chance to test it off the road.

The leather, wood, cruise control and air-conditioning seemed irrelevant. It was just immense fun to take this big four-wheel-drive beast over a specially-constructed course on the edge of Snowdonia. Negotiating a rock-strewn stream bed, ploughing door-handle deep along a muddy ditch or charging up a loose-surfaced one-in-four slope with a blind hump and small lake over the top seemed the natural thing to do in a vehicle bearing the name "Jeep".

I was impressed with the ease and agility with which the large vehicle overcame all these obstacles even in my comparitively inexperienced hands. I was also impressed by the price; at just under £30,000 it was more than £5,000 cheaper than the cheapest Range Rover — a real challenge to that British champion.

But the fact is that Grand Cherokee and Range Rover alike, very few of these big off-roaders ever get near a muddy field. So when Chrysler introduced the latest version, the Laredo, which knocks a further £3,000 off that price, I decided to use it like most owners in a way that I've always rather disapproved of: I took it on the school (or rather the playgroup) run.

If you've ever wondered why so many otherwise rational parents — as likely to rage about congestion from any other source as the rest of us — choose to clog up residential suburbs by ferrying their offspring in vehicles more suited to crossing moorland, the answer is simple. It's not them who do the choosing, it's the children. Once a child has experienced the joys of being perched up in the seats of a 4WD, gazing over the surrounding traffic like a junior member of the nobility surveying a country estate, it's difficult to get them back into an ordinary car.

There is, of course, an obvious advantage to the driver in being able to see over the traffic, but a lot of the urban appeal of these vehicles may lie in the same childish instinct.

That said, this vehicle has a lot more than mere height going for it. Air-conditioning and cruise control are still standard, as are power steering anti-lock brakes, twin airbags and remote central locking, although I didn't like the wood-effect trim, which struck me as being quite unnecessary with practical cloth seats. The off-road ruggedness does nothing to hamper town driving and it is remarkably manoeuvrable in tight parking spaces.

The 2.5-litre diesel version I tried has a five-speed manual gear change and part-time four-wheel-drive, so for town use it behaves as a rear-wheel-drive car, a more economical arrangement than the permanent four-wheel-drive in the 4-litre petrol model.

Last year a Jeep Cherokee with the Italian-made 2.5-litre diesel drove 900 miles from Bologna to London on one tank of fuel, an average of 58.4mpg.

JEEP LAREDO

Engine: 2.5-litre four-cylinder turbo-diesel with 114bhp at 3,900rpm or 4-litre six-cylinder petrol with 174bhp at 4,600rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual with part-time 4WD or four-speed automatic with full-time 4WD.

Performance: 0-60mph in 13.9 seconds (9.9 petrol). Max speed 97mph (112mph).

Economy: Urban 23mpg (13mpg); extra-urban 36 (23.5); combined cycle 29.7 (18.2).

Equipment: Power steering, ABS, twin airbags, remote central locking, alarm/immobiliser, air-conditioning, electric windows and mirrors, cruise control, integral roof rack.

Price: £26,495 on the road.

FORECOURT

■ THE diesel-engined Shogun is for many, the best all-round four-wheel-drive car on the market, *writes Vaughan Freeman.*

Excellent off-road, room for up to seven people, with plenty of creature comforts and good on-road too, the Shogun provides keen competition to established four-wheel drive rivals from Land Rover, reports *CAP Back Book*.

On top of which, since the 1980s the Shogun has consistently kept its second-hand values better than any other 4x4, a major plus point when it comes to selling the car on, and one the shrewd used car buyer should always consider. Depreciation is usually the biggest single cost in car ownership.

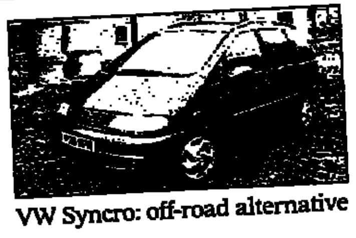
For a 1994 M-reg 2.8-litre turbo diesel five-door, expect to pay around £21,000, and up to £22,500 for the same car but with the Diamond Option Pack of extra equipment.

The Shogun is also mechanically robust and has a sound reputation for trouble-free ownership. Dealers report that, unlike other British-built 4x4s, which come back again and again with faults and niggles, most Shoguns sold second-hand are problem-free.

Unusually for a 4x4 car, the Shogun is enjoyable to drive on Tarmac, which is, for most owners, where most of the driving is done, although the manual transmission is preferred over the automatic.

Certainly the strength of the name and its reputation is growing. As well as the popularity of second-hand models, Mitsubishi is selling more Shoguns new than ever.

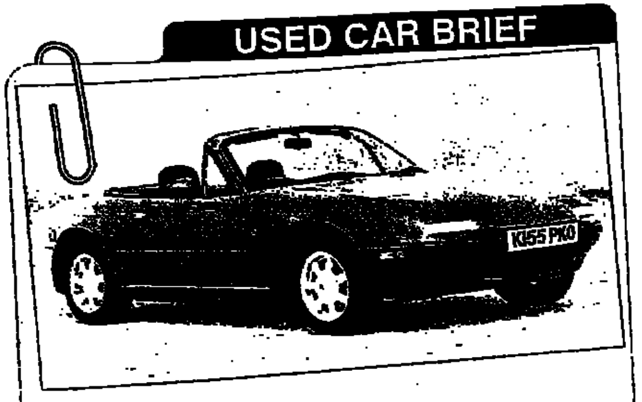
■ AFTER the four-wheel-drive Ford Galaxy comes the all-wheel-drive Volkswagen Sharan VR6 Syncro. It's not that surprising, since the two vehicles are built in the same Spanish plant.



VW Syncro: off-road alternative

Volkswagen says the Syncro, which uses its much-acclaimed 174bhp VR6 engine, is an alternative for drivers of big off-roaders who don't really require the capacity to traverse the Pennine Way. With seven seats and four-speed automatic transmission as standard, the company says it will appeal to large families in rural areas, farmers, vets and doctors. Its high payload and towing abilities should also make it attractive to sailors and riders. Prices start at £25,172 on-the-road, with a three-year warranty.

USED CAR BRIEF



Mazda MX-5

Until the recent arrival of the MGF from Rover, the Mazda MX-5 had things all its own way as a relatively cheap, rear-wheel-drive, two-seater sportscar in the Lotus Elan tradition. Indeed, Mazda make no bones that the MX-5 is a modern copy of the 60s Lotus classic. Launched in 1990, the MX-5 features pop-up headlamps, 1.6 and 1.8-litre twin-cam engines, and superb handling. Looks wonderful and soft-top is impressively weather resistant.

✓ **GOOD NEWS:** Responsive engines, especially the 1.8, power steering, all-round disc brakes and alloy wheels, all make the MX-5 the sort of car used by drivers who love their cars and their driving. As a result most used examples should be in good condition.

⊘ **BAD NEWS:** The interior can seem bare and spartan, and in true sportscar tradition there is relatively little luggage room. Lift carpets to see if there is any damp which means a leaking roof which could be costly (more than £500) to replace. Check too that headlamps do pop up as required. Electrical problems or slight front body damage can cause them to stick or fail.

LOOK FOR: The 1.8-litre 130bhp car gives greater performance, while the SE or 1.8S give the sort of comfort unheard of in more traditional two-door sportscars, including electric windows, power steering, leather trim, airbag, engine immobiliser for security and alloy wheels.

AVOID: Cars lacking power steering are hard work. The MX-5 is the sort of car bought and driven by enthusiasts who care for their car, so walk away from any car that looks tatty, is not cared for, or which is dotted by untreated stone chips.

⚠ **SAFETY:** Side-impact bars only introduced as standard from January 1993, and a driver side airbag only arrived in 1994. However anti-lock brakes on 1.8iS are a boon, and road handling generally is a plus for safety.

☂ **INSURANCE:** Cover from *AA Insurance (0800 444777)* on a 1994 MX-5 costs a 55-year-old professional male or female, with full no claims and living in Winchester, £216 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male living in London with one year no claims bonus, pays £1,323 fully comprehensive, and a similar female pays £1,070.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (prices include VAT) Clutch assembly £250; full exhaust £200; catalytic converter £250; rear damper £110; front brakepads £75; alternator £250; radiator £240; starter motor £130.

£ **PRICES:** Expect to pay around £8,400 for a 1990 G-registered 1.6i, £10,000 for a 1992 J-reg 1.6i, £11,500 for a 1995 M-reg 1.6i, £13,000 for a 1995 M-reg 1.8i, £13,750 for a 1994 L-reg 1.8i and £14,500 for a 1994 M-reg 1.8i.

OVERALL: A red-hot April en route to Summer brings home the allure of open-top sportscar motoring. Best of all, the MX-5 benefits from an excellent soft top that is a dream to lower and raise and which is weather-proof, so should the Summer months prove typically British and wet, the motoring fun need not stop. A car that offers big motoring smiles.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

DAIMLER 6.4 LWB 95N Sapphire, cream, 32k, high spec, 1 owner, £35,950 01603 426487 / 427678 T

SOVEREIGN 93K Jade Green 3.2 Auto (airbag radl) 1 priv owner Full Jag Service History under 69,000 miles superb unmarked condition. £12,695. Tel: 01865 793267 Anytime / Licenced Credit Broker. P/X Welcome. T

XJS 3.2 Leather Plus AC, 95/96 Required 01635 860504

XJRS Supercharger Sapphire Blue /Oatmeal Leather, Sunroof, Air, Cruise, 19,000 Miles £36,850. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

XJS Convertible, 4.0 Nov '92, Flamenco Red, Man, 74K, FJSH, A/c CD £14975. 01962 882657

XK8 Coupe or Convertible Required. 01387 253861

XJ6 AUTO
96N, 13k mls, Topaz metallic, oatmeal lthr. Sports suspension, alloys, s/c, C/C, C/D, FSH, XJR Grille.
£27,995
Tel: 01455 285880.

XK8
Convertible, Antigua blue with classic cream leather, CD & 18 inch wheels, tracker, FSH, 3000 miles. Mint condition.
£59,000(list).
01325 374295.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

1ST Call Lancaster! Britains Best Jaguar Buyers, 0468 166444, 0831 791979

01372 749090 Mole Valley are THE Jaguar Buyers. Collect Nationwide. 0831 406172 w/e.

ABSOLUTE keenest buyers of low mileage F-P Jaguars Sunningdale Mtr 01344 20072

LEX are leading nationwide buyers of Jaguars. One call reaches six dealerships. Call Tim Boyd 0836 222830; 0161 224 2205

PRIVATE
Purchase XJ6, reasonable mileage, 93-95. £18K avail.
01703 253841 (Hants).

LEFT HAND DRIVE

CHRYSLER Voyager
New model, 3.3 SE, auto, P reg, 6,000 miles, 7 seats, dark metallic green, fitted air conditioning.
£18,900.
Day 01763 260800 or eves & weekends 01480 472457

E320
96N. New shape, dark blue, grey hide, full specification with AMG wheels, mint condition,
£29,900.
04681 55888

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

JAGUAR APPROVED USED CARS.

To gain our 'seal of approval' all used cars must first pass a 120 point mechanical inspection. Only then are they Jaguar Approved.
- 12 months mechanical insurance (Optional 24 Months)
- Extended warranty available • Full RAC membership.
- Flexible finance packages available

Please ask for a test drive.

JAGUAR

Lancaster

LONDON
X300 SALOONS
95N XJR S/C Sapp/Oat AC 43T £34,995
95N XJR S/C King/Cream AC 32T £34,995
96P 3.2 Spt Carn/Cream AC 9T £33,995
96P 3.2 Spt Sapp/Cream AC 9T £32,995
96P 3.2 Exec Sapp/Oat AC 9T £31,995
94M 4.0 Spt Sapp/Mistral ESR 21T £29,995
96P 3.2 Spt Carn/Oat ESR 9T £29,995
95N 3.2 Spt Sapp/Oat ESR 14T £27,995
95M 3.2 Spt Sapp/Oat AC 54T £23,995
96P XJ6 3.2 BRG/Oat AC 7T £31,995
All come with remainder of 3 yr warranty
XJ40 SALOONS
94L Daim 4.0 Reg/Mag AC 38T £22,995
93K XJR 4.0 Mori/Cream AC 45T £21,995
94M XJ6 Gold 3.2 Gun/Sav AC 13T £21,995
94M XJ6 Gold 3.2 Kng/Doe A/C 22T £21,995
94L XJ6 4.0 S Flam/Doe AC 44T £18,995
93K Sov 4.0 King/Doeskin AC £19,995
XJS COUPE/CONV
94L XJS 4.0 Cpe Sig/Mag AC 37T £23,995
94L XJS 4.0 Cpe Bib/Doe AC 32T £23,995
92J XJS 4.0 Cpe Flam/Oat AC 65T £16,995
All come with 12 months Jaguar Approved Warranty
Tel: 0181 302 3333
A/hours 0336 274497
Open Sunday 10am - 2pm
www.lancasterplc.com.sidcup.jaguar

KENT
G XJS 3.6 Man Arctic, 55T . . . £10,995
95 XJR 4.0 Sapphire, 17T . . . £42,995
95 XJR 4.0 Ice Blue, 29T . . . £35,995
96 Sov 4.0 LWB Spruce, 17T . . . £39,995
M Sov 4.0 Sapphire, 32T . . . £30,995
M Sov 4.0 Regency, 30T . . . £25,495
M Sov 4.0 Morocco, 43T . . . £24,995
94 Sov 4.0 Morocco, 29T . . . £22,995
93 XJ12 Insignia, 57T . . . £19,995
93 3.2 Sport Aqua, 12T . . . £22,995
P 3.2 Sport Carnival, 7T . . . £32,995
P XJ6 3.2 Cabernet, 10T . . . £31,995
P XJ6 3.2 Spruce, 17T . . . £31,995
N XJ6 3.2 LWB Sapphire, 7T . . . £31,995
N XJ6 3.2 Kingfisher, A/C, 18T . £28,995
M XJ6 Gold Sapphire, ESR, 24T £22,995
M 3.2 Sport B.R.G., A/C, 34T . . . £21,995
94 3.2 Spt Flamenco, ESR, 38T . £19,995
93 Daimler 4.0 B.R.G., 48T . . . £19,995
Tel: 01732 456300
Out of hours: 0589 990722
www.lancasterplc.com.[illegible]

LEX Weybridge Automobiles
XJS
95N XJS Celeb Conv, Sapphire/Cream, 10K £38,950
94L XJS 4.0 Coupe, Silver Frost/Saddle, 46T £23,950
92K XJRS, Flamenco/Doeskin, 23K £23,950
XJ6
94M XJR, Sapphire/Oatmeal, 26T £34,950
95N XJ6 3.2 LWB, Sapphire/Charcoal, 17T £30,950
95N XJ6 3.2 Excellence, Mineral Green/Oat, 26K £27,500
94M XJ6 3.2 Sport, Black/Grey, 29T £25,950
94L XJ6 3.2 Gold, Gunmetal/Tan, 18T £20,950
93L XJ6 3.2S, Black/Grey, 33T £19,950
94L XJ6 3.2, Kingfisher/Doeskin, 44T £18,950
SOVEREIGN
95M Sov 3.2, Kingfisher/Oatmeal, 64K £21,950
94L Sov 4.0, Kingfisher/Saddle, 32T £22,500
92J Sov 4.0, Kingfisher, 27T £18,950
DAIMLER
96P Daimler Six, Titanium, 6T £47,950
95M Daimler 4.0, Kingfisher/Charcoal, 34T £32,450
93L Daimler D6, Solent/Doeskin, 25T. . . . £23,950
01932 849225
SUN 0802 671222

LEX WOODFORD JAGUAR
XJS
94L XJS 4.0 Conv A, Arctic Blue, 38T £29,000
95M XJS 4.0 Celeb A, Sapphire, 27T . £28,000
94M XJS 4.0 Coupe A, Sapphire, 37T £24,000
92K XJS 4.0 Coupe A, Regency, 47T . £18,500
92J XJS 4.0 Coupe A, Kingfisher, 46T . £17,500
91H XJS 4.0 Coupe A, Solent, 62T . . £16,000
XJ6
96N XJ6 3.2 Exec A, Cardinal, 5T . £31,000
96N XJ6 3.2 A, Sapphire, A/C, 13T £31,000
95N XJ6 3.2 A, Racing Green, 44T £26,000
95M XJ6 3.2 A, Ice Blue, A/C, 60T . . £24,000
94M XJ6 3.2 A, [illegible], A/C, 67T . £23,000
94M XJ6 3.2S A, Flamenco, S/R, 34T . £20,000
95M XJ6 3.2 Gold A, Kingfisher, 41T £20,000
93K XJ6 3.2 A, Kingfisher, A/C, 48T . . £15,000
XJ12
93L XJ12 4, Flamenco Red, 37T . . . £18,500
SOVEREIGN
96N Sov 4.0 LWB A, BR Green, 6T . . . £37,000
95M Sov 4.0 Auto, Kingfisher, 26T . £32,500
95M Sov 3.2 A, Sapphire Blue, 31T . £28,000
DAIMLER
94M Daimler Six Auto, Ice Blue, 22T £33,000
London E18
Tel: 0181 989 6644
Mobile: 0378 241585

Stratstone of [illegible]
[illegible]
Tel: 0171 629 4404
Mobile: 0468 505 672

Over 50 pre-owned Jaguars on display at one location.
Please phone for a [illegible]
HENLYS Est. 1928
The Hyde, Edgware Road, Hendon, London, NW9 6NE.
Tel: (0181) 205 4031
After Hours 0831 555519

LEFT HAND DRIVE

MERCEDES BENZ 280SEL
Excellent Condition, FMBSH (German), private no. plate, £4,995.
Tel: 01242 862530 (after 8pm).

S320
LWB. 96N. black/black hide. all MB extras, low mileage, 1 owner.
£35,900.
04681 55888

VW GOLF VR6
1992, Air con, electric roof/windows, expensive radio & CD.
£10,500 Part ex considered.
01904 481058 Home
01904 671270 Office

BENTLEY Mulsanne S '91 £36500
Mercedes 500SL '92 £35500
Mercedes S320 '92 £19950
BMW 750iL 1990 £11950
911 Turbo 3.3 '82 £19950
GOLF VR6 5 dr '93 £10950
Mazda MX5 Conv '94 £10950
Frontera 2.3 TD '96 £13950
R.Rover 4.6 HSE '95 £29950
R.Rover 4.2 LSE '94 £18950.
Tel: 0171 485 1015; Fax: 0171 267 6934. Trans LHD Centre.

GRAND CHEROKEE Laredo diesel LHD, New-del mls, full options + air con. Cancelled order, massive saving at £20,950. 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

LEXUS Coupe, 1994, Black / Cream leather, man, low miles, FLSH, full options £21,950. 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

MERCEDES C220 Elegance Manual 96, Champagne met, aircon 13,000 miles only. £17,990 0171 328 9648/0378 841791 t

MIDLAND LHD. Suppliers of new & used LHD vehicles. LHD cars wanted. 01543 414307.

RANGE Rover 3.9 Auto 94M, aircon, air sus, red/grey cloth, £13,950 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

LEXUS

GS300
94, FLSH, exc cond, blue, 57k.
£18,995
01455 234356 (h)/ 0116 277 7373 (o).

LEXUS

COUPES direct from Japan, right hand drive V.8., twin turbo and 3 litre models new and used. Intercar London and South 0181 203 3399. New Manchester Showroom 0161 764 8881.

GS300
1995(N), immac in met burgundy with pale grey lthr. CD, FSH, only 25k careful mls.
£29,950
Tel: (d) 01323 733711/ (e) 01323 648312.

GS300 SALOON
In silver, grey lthr. Reg Nov 93. FSH. 35k, 1 previous owner. MOT till Nov 97.
£18,950 ono
01744 885425.

MAZDA

MAZDA Choice, best choice, keenest prices. Mazda Choice freephone 0800 323626

TAMPLINS OF TWICKENHAM urgently require your MX3/ MX5/ MX6 and RX7, Freephone Alistair Geist on 0800 614258

LOTUS

ELAN SE
Turbo. H reg, 15,000 miles only. Red, full leather. Cherished car. Recent MOT, full service, 4 new tyres.
£16,000. Tel: 01924 278720.

ELAN S2
1995 M, Norfolk Yellow, 15,000 miles, FSH, 1 previous owner.
£25,500.
0976 917487

MASERATI

2.0i Twin Turbo Coupe '84 LHD Silver alloys E500 KDS Stereo e/w, Elec. Aerial, All Maserati refinements. MoT Nov.'97 £4,495. 01666 510212. T

430SE 1992K White/blue hide V6 Twin Turbo 2.8i Gold Clock a/c elec everything 41k FSH unmarked amazing value £13,995. MoT Apr'98. 01666 510212.T

MAZDA

MX5 MERLOT
Stunning ltd ed. October 96, Under 2000 miles, Burgandy metallic, grey leather, wood trim, alloys, CD, Best offer over £15,500.
Tel: 01256 389405.

MERCEDES

'P'
E230 Elegance, Brilliant Silver/ Champagne cloth, Climate, elec/ mem seat, r/ blind, Bose sound system, exquisite CD, cruise, 4 airbags, ESR, 10 HA, windscreen w/w, 3,000 miles. £31,000.
0161 432 6195.

500 SEC
91 H, Pearl Blue / cream leather, FMBSH, only 28K, full spec, immaculate, 2 owners.
£28,950.
01494 763429.

MERCEDES

M3 Evo 3.2 Convertible 96(P)
Boston Green/light silver leather air con alarm CD 13,000 miles FSH excellent condition.
£41,995
01732 849522 /0374 830479.T

E200
96 Elegance, auto, cruise, 12,000mls. Bornite metallic, grey cloth, stereo, 3rd h/rest. Owner emigrating.
£25,995.
Tel:01925 290422.

E200
Elegant auto, N reg 1995. Tourmaline green, grey cloth, 3rd RHR, air con, radio. 32,000 miles, FMBSH.
£24,995.
Tel: 0181 545 7227.- 7270. (Daytime).

E320 Estate
93L, Auto, Black/ Cream hide, FMBSH, 7 seats, 8HA, wallnut, ESR, E-seat Pioneer CD/ stack remote controls.
£21,950.
Tel: 01654 761555

E200
Est 16V 94L Mid blue grey cloth, 37K 7 seats walnut ESR FEW Stereo R alarm 1 owner £19,950
0171 216 3949 (Day)
01206 870848 (Eve)

230E
G reg, met Willow Green, beige int, FSH, elec s/roof, winds, TI, Bpuknt, ABS, one owner, superb cond, 54K mls. £9,950.
01244 350177.

560 SEL
November 1989 (G) £13,950 blue/black metallic, cream leather, immaculate, superb specification, 87,000 miles, service history, PLC Director's private car, AA/RAC insp invited.
01273 691783.

E250
diesel 1994, white, FSH, auto S/R 42k m £17,900.
Tel: 01784 482644/ 0831 664482.

300CE-24v
A rare beautiful example, 1992 J, Pagett Red, FMBSH, 2 owners (Director of M.B.), immaculate, many extras, including: A/C, Sports Sus, BSR, alloys, ABS, Twin A/B, E/W, ESW, OTG + more. Offers near £19,950.
01730 816176. (West Sussex.)

420 SL
Convertible automatic. 1987. Smoke Silver 19,800 miles Guaranteed with FMBSH. Perfect condition. All original. Any test. RAC warranty. Cherished number available. £25,500.
Tel: 01491 826168

500SL
87E, Signal red, cream leather, rear seat, C/C, heated seats, a/c, headlamp washwipe, FMBSH, alarm, 3 owners, 43K mls. £22,995.
01704 541252.

SL320 1997
Only 800 miles by elderly gent. Brilliant Silver, Blue leather, Glass top, rear seat, 8 hole. Heated front seats, C.D. Hood storage rack, £65,000 Saving approx £7,000 on list price. Like new.
Tel: 01978 823999

320SL
P reg, quick sale, 1 owner, £59,995.
Tel. 0151 531 7388 mobile 0374 147147

300SL
Red, cream interior, 1986, low mileage, excellent condition, service history, £17,750ono.
01636 812353

SL300
24, 91, white, black leather, auto 5 spoke alloys, lady owner, FMBSH, rear seats, the cleanest anywhere, £41,925.
0468 936 999.

C180
Eleg, auto, 95 M, alloys, alarm, 19k, almandine/grey interior, B-PKT 10 CD, FMBSH. 1 owner, garaged, immaculate.
£19,750
Tel: 01993 774478.

230E Auto 92K Almandine Red alloys s/h/r 50k FSH £15,995. PX poss 0836 558108.T

380SL auto, cruise control, 1984, 80k miles, burgundy/beige, FSH, new soft top, steering box and heater, private sale. £14,000 ovno. Tel: 0171 7943570 or 0171 5833335.

230 CE
H reg, Dark Grey Metallic Auto, aircon, alloys, Servicehistory. 80,000 miles, Superb car.
£13,500.
Tel: 01222 689652 or 0370 471950

C220 Elegance
M registered Metallic Blue-Black, Grey leather, CD, electric mirrors & windows, FMBSH, 30,000 miles
£18,500.
0181 874 5433
0836 275751

380 SLC
1981, 65K, FMBSH, lthr, air, Champagne met, absolutely mint.
£9,995.
01268 750481.

SL500
Auto, August'95 N, Full Silver, black & red leather interior, climate control, heated front seats, 8 hole alloys, eye-level boot lid brake lights, FMBSH, Full Mercedes approved alarm, as new 5,500 miles, £67,500.
Tel. 01246 431145 or 0860 400568

300SL
24v. 90G, Silver/Grey, 28k, £38,500.
Tel. 0171 487 5800/ 0171 706 4942

450 SE 1973, 42,300 miles, 2 family owners since 1974, 12 months mot, esr, ew, vgc, £2,950 Tel 01702 558042.p

CABRIOLET 320 or 220 Urgently Sought with Good Specification. Please Telephone 01949 861289

300SL-24Valve
1992 K
Signal Red, Beige lthr int. Convertable/ hard top. FMBSH, 38,000 miles Aircon, 8 hole alloys, tracker. Alpine CD, electric seats, auto
£38,995ono.
Tel: 01455 612996 (evenings) or 01203 636322 (o/h)

E200 Elegance (New shape)
July 96, metallic green, air con, a/c, multi stack CD, 7 seats, tracker, 12k mls, manuf warranty. £33,000 - showroom cond.
Call Arthur: (day) 0161 825 5428 or (eve) 01565 654637.

600SEL
Automatic 93K metallic Nautic Blue & Cream leather, every conceivable extra included. 70,000 miles, FMBSH, Immaculate condition.
£42,775.
Tel: 0181 965 9898 (Office hours)

E200 AVANT GARDE
N Reg, Black green, leather + many extras, FMBSH, 21k mls.
01246 569760/ 04100 19242.

300SL-24Valve
1990 G reg
Silver
Blue leather interior 41,000 miles, FSH Aircon, rear seats 8 hole alloys, ABS, and many extras Mint condition
£38,000.
Tel: 01279 442220

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES
MONDAY & TUESDAY 9AM-6.30PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9AM-8PM
FRIDAY 9AM-6PM
SATURDAY 9AM-4PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM
TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

MERCEDES AUTHORISED DEALERS

Built to last a second lifetime.

Mercedes-Benz Used Cars

Lancaster

The largest retailer of Mercedes-Benz in the U.K.

www.lancasterplc.com

	C-CLASS		
96N	C180 Eleg Auto Azurite, blue cloth, r/c	10T	£21,995
96N	C200T Eleg Est Man Azurite blue, mush hide	12T	£26,995
96N	C200T Eleg Est Man Grn black, grey cloth, r/c	5T	£26,995
93L	C220 Eleg Auto Almandine, grey cloth, r/r, olg	35T	£20,995
96N	C220 Eleg Auto Green blk, hide, a/c, eds	11T	£29,995
96N	C280 Eleg Auto Ruby red, black cloth, a/c, r/c	13T	£29,995
	E-CLASS		
93K	200TE Auto Pearl blue, grey cloth, esr, r/s, ew	60T	£17,995
94L	E200T Auto White, grey cloth, esr, ew, r/s	47T	£19,995
96N	E200T Classic Auto Silver, black, r/s, esr, r/c	9T	£31,995
93L	E220 Auto Blue black, grey cloth, ww, r/c	30T	£19,995
96M	E220T Auto Blue blk, mush cloth, r/s, lar, olg	18T	£26,995
94M	E220 Cabriolet Silver, black hide, 8 holes, cd	24T	£35,995
96P	E230 Eleg Auto Green black, grey cloth, a/c, rc	14T	£32,995
93L	E300D Auto Blue black, grey cloth, aw	47T	£18,995
95N	E320 Eleg Smoke silver, blk hide, full spec	20T	£37,995
96N	E320 Eleg Green black, mush hide, full spec	15T	£38,995
91J	500E Auto Blue black, grey, air con	75T	£27,995
	S-CLASS & SLs		
95N	S280 Smoke silver, mushroom hide, e/sunroof	18T	£34,995
96N	S280 Ruby red, mushroom cloth, esr, 15h, r/c	15T	£34,995
96P	S320 Blue black, black hide, c/c, e/s	9T	£47,995
96P	CL420 Azurite, mushroom hide, parktronic	8T	£67,995
95N	S500L Azurite, mushroom hide, full spec	19T	£59,995
96P	S500 Limo Smoke silver, mush hide, rs, adm	10T	£82,995
95M	SL500 Brilliant silver, blue lthr, c/c, rcs, 8h	9T	£64,995
96P	SL500 Tourmaline, mushroom hide, rcs, 8h, hfs	4T	£77,995
93L	S600 Coupe Nautic blue, hide, AMG wheels	57T	£56,995
95N	SL600 Silver, black hide, full spec	35T	£71,995

01992 514444
A/HOURS 0860 519529 OPEN SUNDAY
www.lancasterplc.com/hertford/mercedes

	C-CLASS		
96N	C180 Eleg Auto Azurite, grey cloth, music	11T	£22,995
96P	C180 Esprit Auto Green black, esr, lar, 8 holes	7T	£23,495
97P	C180 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mush cloth, olg	5T	£25,495
96P	C200 Elegance Auto Azurite, grey cloth, music	5T	£26,495
96P	C200 Sport Auto Silver, black cloth, esr, a/w	9T	£26,995
95N	C220 Sport Auto Ruby, esr, lar	17T	£24,995
96P	C220D Classic Auto Silver, black cloth, music	5T	£24,995
96P	C280 Eleg Auto Green blk, hide, eds, air con	10T	£32,995
	E-CLASS		
95N	E200 Classic Auto Silver, esr,ew, cd	23T	£25,995
95N	E200 Avantgarde Azurite, hide, elm, hlww	17T	£27,995
95N	E220 SE Auto Azurite, air con, ww, lar	28T	£24,995
96N	E230 Eleg Auto Smoke, black cloth, esr, cd	4T	£28,995
96N	E230 Eleg Auto Ruby, mush cloth, c/c, lm	7T	£29,995
96P	E230 Estate Eleg Auto Azurite, cloth, music	5T	£34,995
94M	E280 Estate Auto Onyx, MB tex, a/c, r/s, ww	28T	£29,995
92K	300CE 24V Almandine, hide, a/c, c/c, duchal	53T	£29,995
96N	E320 Eleg Green black, hide, air con, hww, flm	6T	£39,995
97P	E320 Eleg Aqua, hide, full AMG, high spec	5T	P.O.A.
	S-CLASS & SLs		
96N	S320 Azurite, grey hide, e/s, 8h alloys, music	14T	£43,995
96P	S320 Green black, hide, clm, els+m, 8h, cd	4T	£45,995
96N	SL320 96 Mdl Imperial red, hide, 12h, c/c, rcs	11T	£57,995
96P	SL500 Ruby red, hide, hfs, 6h, clm	4T	£79,995
96N	SL600 Silver, grey hide, 96 model, c/c, cd	7T	£84,995
96P	CL420 Green black, black hide, full spec	3T	£59,995
97P	CL420 Aquamarine, grey hide, full spec	3T	£69,995
5M	S500 Coupe Silver, Black hide, high spec.	23T	£64,995
96N	S600 Limo Blue black, two tone hide	20T	£74,995

0181 983 4444
A/HOURS STEPHEN PEARCE 0410 706 497 OPEN SUNDAY
www.lancasterplc.com/bow/mercedes

	C-CLASS		
94M	C180 Elegance Auto met, lsw & g, r/st	29T	£19,995
95N	C180 Sport 5 Speed esr, ew, olg, lca, spoiler	9T	£20,995
96N	C180 Elegance met, air, c/c, olg, r/st, srd	9T	£22,995
96N	C200 Elegance Auto met, air, c/c, r/st	9T	£25,595
96N	C220D Elegance Auto met, r/st	12T	£23,595
96P	C230 Kompressor Sport met, drs, r/st	11T	£28,595
97P	C230 Kompressor Sport Auto r/st	4T	£30,995
94L	C250D Elegance Auto r/st, alarm	40T	£19,995
96P	C250D Classic Auto c/c, esr, drs, r/st	10T	£23,995
96P	C250D Turbo Estate 5Spd r/st	6T	£27,595
94M	C280 Elegance Auto met, air, 7.5J, 8h alloys	20T	£25,995
96P	C280 Elegance Auto met, air con, 10h alloys	13T	£30,995
	E-CLASS		
93L	200TE Auto esr, lca	35T	£19,995
94M	E220 Auto met, lca, walnut	36T	£20,995
96P	E230 Avantgarde Auto met, air, srd, r/st	9T	£32,995
96P	E230 Elegance Estate Auto met, air, srd, hlw	10T	£33,595
93L	E280 Auto met, lab, stack cd	30T	£22,995
96P	E280 Elegance met, air, srd, r/st	10T	£35,595
96P	E300D Elegance Auto met	4T	£31,995
95N	E320 Coupe 5 Spd Auto met, hide, air, eds, 8h	7T	£41,995
	S-CLASS & SLs		
95N	S280 met, hide, climate, esr, 8h, r/st	25T	£36,995
95N	S280 met, piped hide, esr, clm, msc, alloys	16T	£37,995
96N	S320 5 Spd Auto met, hide, eps x 2, rrb, r/st	20T	£43,995
96P	SL280 met, hide, hfs, r/seat, new model	4T	£57,995
95N	SL320 5 Spd Auto met, hide, rs, c/c, 8h	8T	£55,995
93K	S500 met, hide, e/s, clm, closers, 8h, stack CD	30T	£38,995

0114 2753391
A/HOURS 0831 140145 OPEN SUNDAY
www.lancasterplc.com/sheffield/mercedes

	C-CLASS		
96N	C200 Elegance Auto met, hide, 17" alloys, lar	16T	£28,995
96P	C250D Elegance Auto met, esr, ew, r/st	9T	£24,995
96P	C250TD Elegance Auto met, esr, e/w, r/st	9T	£27,995
	E-CLASS		
94L	200TE Auto met, esr, ew, 7 seats, alloys, rst	48T	£19,995
95N	E200 Avantgarde met, hide, air, esr, hlw, r/st	9T	£29,995
93L	E220 Coupé Auto hide, alloys, esr, r/st	46T	£24,995
94M	E220T Auto met, esr, ew, 7 seats, r/st	19T	£24,995
96P	E220T Auto met, esr, olg, r/st	15T	£26,995
96N	E230 Elegance Auto met, hide, 3 r/r, a/c, r/st	20T	£31,995
96N	E230 Avantgarde Auto met, hide, a/c, esr, r/st	11T	£32,995
94L	E280T Auto met, esr, 8 holes, 7 seats, r/st	33T	£26,995
96P	E280 Elegance Auto met, hide, air, r/st	5T	£36,995
94M	E300TD Auto met, esr, ew, r/st	16T	£26,995
96N	E300D Elegance Auto met, lm, r/st	14T	£29,995
95N	E320T Auto met, eds, 7 seats, olg, r/st	24T	£34,995
94L	E320 Coupe Auto met, hide, air, hls, 8h, r/st	33T	£35,995
96N	E320 Elegance Auto met, hide, hls, eds, air, cd	4T	£38,995
95P	E320 Avantgarde Auto met, hide, air, els, hls	7T	£42,995
	S-CLASS & SLs		
96N	SL320 Auto met, hide, rcs, acc, cd	19T	£59,995
96P	SL320 Auto met, hide, rcs, acc, cd	4T	£65,995
96N	S500 Coupé Auto met, hide, esp, wasw	12T	£69,995
94M	S500L Auto met, hide, acc, hls, 8 holes, r/st	39T	£45,995
92K	600SEL Auto met, hide, acc, r/st	66T	£49,995
93L	600SL Auto met, exc hide, acc, 17" alloys, r/st	25T	£66,995

01473 232232
A/HOURS 0860 348004 OPEN SUNDAY
www.lancasterplc.com/ipswich/mercedes

We pay top prices for your quality used Mercedes-Benz. Contact Mike Thompson or Ian Clark on 0860 308 333 or 0831 344705 email amt@lancasterplc.com

PORSCHE

92J 911 Carrera 2 Cabriolet, White/ blue leather, Sports Seats, 48,000mls, FSH £39995 Appleyard 0113 246 1111

911 Carrera 2 Cpe (95M), Iris Blue, Marble Grey Leather, TTS, 17" Cup Alloys, 2,000 Miles £56,000. Graypaul 01509 232233

911 SSB Cpe (88F) jet Black, Black Half Leather, SSR £26,000. Graypaul 01509 232233

911 Turbo Coupe 1993, Anthracite / Cream Leather, Full Options, Mint Condition, 29,000 miles, LHD £34,950. 0171 3289648 /0378 841791 t

BOXSTER silver red leather int sports pack CD system chrome sill steps 1¼K £47,000 ono 01925 752231/0468 950340T

CARRERA 4 Cab 90G Grand Prix White/ Black Leather, Front and Rear Leather Seats, Air Cond, Cruise Control, 45,000 Miles, £35,500. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

CARRERA 2 Coupe 94L Guards Red/ Black Leather, High Spec, 17,000 miles £47,000. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

911 SPORT TARGA.
1989 Guards red, black lthr, FSH, new tyres, totally original car.
£24,000
0181 897 3007 or 0836 201260

911 TIP S COUPE
Metallic black/marble interior, 17k, s/c, M reg, 17" wheels, FPSH.
£51,995
0181 501 1189/ 0917.

PORSCHE WANTED

1ST Call Lancaster Britains Best Porsche Buyers. 0831 344705, 0860 308333

WANTED Wanted. All Porsche, any miles / condition. 01628 660413/ 0831 123911 now. T

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

AC7
Available for transfer.
First time since 1947.
All enquiries direct to:-
Cuthbert South Limited
Tel 01525 861515

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

A1 TPB
& KLP 380
£1600 each.
01202 707081.

BDZ 3
£2,600.
0973 772169

27 CJD
Offers above £3,000.
0181 897 3007/ 0836 201260

CMA 1N
£10,000
01977 702031

911 COS
£4,495.
Also
18 HF
£4,395.
Offers around £8k the pair.
01268 573488
0956 438036

1 EFW
on retention £4,500 or will swap for diesel car.
Tel: 01777 706894

222 JJ	£4,000
88 KEN	£4,500
1 KBG	£7,500
1 JSR	£10,000
KSL 1	£9,000

Phone 0956 516 464

PIA 55
on retention
£1,595 ono
Tel:01945 474071

P1 MUM
Priced at £2,000
0181 897 3007 /0836 201260

Top Numbers

40 BCR	£1,970	MEG 11	£4,720
18 DFW	£2,600	M1 POR	£1,970
9 DN	£6,700	1331 RA	£1,500
19 DS	£5,400	83 RD	£4,750
DS 7055	£1,500	SDR 69	£2,600
FH 77	£6,720	1453 SP	£1,500
40 GB	£6,700	4 SYD	£3,995
KB GJH	£295	T 97	£3,995
19 LJ	£4,200	11 TOP	£3,975
6 MGB	£5,420	YOU 21	£3,975

01934 842215

MARKET RESEARCH
33 DAISY HILL, CHORLEY

3197 AP
1701 DA
5347 DW
EK 7631
GB 5697
GF 738
HAZ 406
HD 9466
HK 4741
HO 9051
JB 6666
JC 8216
JIL 1965
JS 9363
MB 9669
MU 2916
1320 N
PS 3424
1017 RH
6666 SM
2527 WW
YB 7794

01257 482305

P60 XER
£2000 ono
Porsche Boxster
Tel: 01707 644711.

CRUICKSHANK – ALWAYS EXCEPTIONAL

94M	SL500 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, R/seats, M'contour seats	18T	£50,800
94M	SL500 'K'	Met, Lthr, Air con, R/seats, HFS, 8 holes	20T	£50,500
97S	SL320 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, 'V. Latest Spec'	2T	£55,000
95M	SL320 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, R/seats, ASR, 8 holes	18T	£55,000
93L	SL320 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, R/seats, 8 holes	11T	£52,000
94L	SL320 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, R/seats, 8 holes	19T	£50,000
93L	SL320 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, R/seats, 8 holes	22T	£50,000
95M	SL280 'K'	Azurite, Lthr, Climate, R/seats, 'Glass Top', 'L/Spec'	14T	£57,500
91H	300SL 24V 'K'	Signal red, Lthr, R/seats, '1 Owner'	32T	£40,000
91H	300SL 24V 5SPD 'K'	Met, Lthr, Air con, ASR, 8 holes	38T	£42,000
89G	300SL 'K'	Arctic white, Lthr, R/seats, ++	38T	£37,500
96P	E220 CABRIOLET	Azurite, Lthr, 8 holes, HFS, CD stack	18T	£42,000
93L	S500 COUPE 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, 'Superb'	41T	£45,000
91J	420 SEC 'K'	Met, Lthr, Air con, EFSx2, HFS	53T	£26,000
97S	S500 'K'	Azurite, Lthr, Climate, 'Total Spec'	2T	£78,000
97S	S320 'K'	Azurite, Lthr, Climate, Mem pack, Soft close, ++	3T	£54,500
95M	S320 5SPD 'K'	Met, Lthr Climate, 8 holes, '1 Owner'	28T	£42,000
97S	S280 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate	2T	£43,850
95N	E320 COUPE 5SPD 'K'	Met, Lthr, Air con, 8 holes, EDS	18T	£39,500
95M	E320 COUPE 'K'	Azurite, Lthr, Air con, 8 holes, 'Totally As New'	41T	£34,500
92K	230CE 'K'	Signal red, Lthr, 8 holes, + more	30T	£23,850
94M	E220 COUPE 'K'	Met, Lthr, 8 holes, + more	12T	£28,000
93L	E220 COUPE 'K'	Met, Lthr, 'Full Content'	44T	£24,000
97S	E50 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, 'Total Spec', '347 18 BHP'	1km	£63,000
97S	E36 'K'	Met, Lthr, Air con, 'Simply Stunning'	2T	£50,850
97S	E320 AVANTGARDE 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate AMG alloys, ++	4T	£44,850
96P	E320 AVANTGARDE 'K'	Met, Lthr, Air con, F/mirrors, ++	7T	£43,000
96N	E200 CLASSIC ESTATE 'K'	Met, 7 seats, EGSR, ++	2T	£30,850
97S	E300 D ELEGANCE 'K'	Met, Air con, + more	2T	£33,850
94M	E220T 'K'	Imperial red, '1 Owner', 'As New'	15T	£23,850
93L	E320 5SPD 'K'	Met, Lthr, Climate, EMDS, HFS, 'Stunning', ++	67T	£25,000
89G	300E 24V 'K'	EFSx2, Air con, Sport line, ASR + more	43T	£17,850
92K	260E 24V 'K'	Met, OTG, 'Superb Throughout'	57T	£18,850
97S	C280 SPORT 'K'	Met, Lthr, Air con, Choice of 2. V low mlg	from	£34,000
96N	C230 SPORT KOMP RHM	Met, 'As New'	7T	£27,500
96N	C280 ELEGANCE EST	Azurite, 'Superb'	16T	£24,500

TEL: (0117) 966 9331
EVES: (0385) 998357
7 DAYS A WEEK
24 HOURS A DAY
NATIONWIDE DELIVERY

Quality Used Cars
A Sytner Company

COUNTRY SERVICES LTD

P96 S280 Auto Ruby red mushroom lthr elec drivers seat alloy wheels CC, radio/cass 12K £41,995

P96 E280 Elegance Auto brilliant silver grey lthr elec drivers seat A/C CD 11K £35,995

P96 C280 Elegance Auto blue black grey cloth OTG 10K £28,995

N96 E300D Elegance Auto ruby red mushroom cloth glass s/r/ H/L washers 3rd headrest 10K £29,995

01437 766831
Sunday 01834 811574
01437 768405
Mobile: 0468 322534

FERRARI TESTAROSSA - METICULOUSLY CONSTRUCTED RECREATION OF THE 1950s SPORTS RACING CAR.

PORSCHE

944 CABRIOLET
Glacier Blue
Navy hood
55,000 miles
J reg. FPSH
Immaculate
£20,995.
Tel: 0181 778 0796

911
Carrera 4, registered May'95, 2,850 miles, metallic Dark Grey, Sport Seats, 17" Wheels, air conditioning, sun roof, immobiliser, cruise control, private sale.
Tel: 01534 42486.

911 CARRERA
Targa, 1984, guards red, full leather, 33,000 miles. FPSH, CD, immobiliser, new tyres & pads, pristine condition.
£19,950
01225 783267

911 SC
1983 Red
FPSH,
Black leather interior
Gemini immobiliser
Sun roof, very good condition
£14,000
Tel: 0181 9405932(h) or 0171 580 5075 (w)

SPEEDSTER
89G. Immaculate. 10,000 miles. Black/Black leather. FPSH, wide body. £37,500.
Curtis. 01823 421524 or. Mobile. 0802 696303. Why wait for a Boxster.

PORSCHE 911 TURBO 4
Midnight with Grey, 1996 N, FPSH
£89,995
0468 505 657
WORK
01302 369191(T)

911 CARRERA 2
95, met black with blck hide seats, 6 spd gear box, ESR, rad/cass, system 1 alarm, over carpets, under 20k mls, p/x considered. FPSH.
£51,500
01222 706333/ 0976 236535.

C2 Coupe
P reg. Arena red/marble, all extras inc spoilers, 2½k mls.
£60,950
01234 354747 (h)/ 01767 600500 (w).

968 Club Sport
93K, Red, 34K miles, FPSH, VGC.
£22,000.
Bristol.
01454 418614

MERCEDES

SL320 AS NEW
Azurite/cream hide, c/c, 8h alloys, CD stack, r/seat, extras. FSH, private garage night & day. Only 9k mls.
Best 1995 car in UK!
£53,750
Tel: 0181 455 8897.

500SL CONVERTIBLE + HARD TOP
August 95, N reg.
Azurite blue, grey leather interior / blue hood.
Air con. Kenwood stereo / radio cassette. 8 hole alloys, heated front seats.
18,000 mls, 1 owner.
Mint condition. FSH.
£67,995 ono
(w) 0161 228 7444
(h) 0161 904 8878

C36 AMG
1995 M. 35,000 miles.
Silver with contrasting cloth, electric front seats, air conditioning, sun roof, cruise control. Kenwood CD. FMBSH.
£33,500.
01305 833103 daytime
01305 834443 evenings

Mercedes OWNERS
COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE
FROM £170
Low Cost Schemes for Mercedes
0345 123111
All Calls Charged at Local Rate
Internet: http://www.hhh.co.uk
Hill House Hammond
The Motor Insurance Specialists

C36 Urgently Wanted With Good Specification 01949 861289

E320 Elegance Auto 96N Azurite, Mushroom Lthr, Air Cond, Glass Electric Sunroof, Mem Seats, Avant Garde Alloys, 15,000 miles £39,500. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

SLK
230 Silver / Black leather, nice spec, immediate delivery.
£41,995.
0860 914678

280E
Automatic April 94 Pale Blue Metallic/Grey leather, walnut finish, air conditioning, electric windows, mirrors & sunroof, 7-hole alloys, FMBSH, as new, 47,000 miles, reluctant sale due to new car.
£22,500.
0116 259 3433

Lancaster
COLCHESTER

(P) CL500 Blue Black, Mushroom Lthr, AMG Alloys, Wood Steering Wheel, CD Stack x 10, 3T £76,995

(P) E230 Avantgarde Auto Viola, Grey Lthr, Climate, Elec/Mem/Ortho/Front Seats, Rain Sensor, F/Mirrors, Parktronic, R/Blind, HLW, CD, 8 Spkrs, 7T £37,995

(P) E230 Eleg Auto Polar White, Grey Lthr, Cruise, Climate, EM/FS, Parktronic, Folding Mirrors, R/Blind, Rain Sensor, HLW, CD, 8 Speakers, 3T ... £37,995

(P) C200 Eleg Auto Green Black, Mush Cloth, Cruise, FRS, CD, 11T £25,995

(P) C200 Eleg Auto Green Black, OTG, Mush Cloth, Cruise, Alloys £22,995

(P) C180 Eleg Auto Green Black, Mush Cloth, Cruise, CD, 9T £22,995

(N) C220 Diesel Esprit Estate 5 Spd Man Silver, Black/Blue Cloth, Electric Sunroof, CD, 6 Speakers, 10T £21,995

01206 855500
0850 716911

SL500, 500SL, SL320, 300SL 24V 300SL, SL280. Do Not Buy An SL Sports Without Speaking To Cruickshank Mercedes. See Display Ad or Call 0117 966 9331 Today

S600 V12 LIMO
1995 N, Blue Black, 2 tone leather, FMBSH, 37,000 miles, full specification, immaculate condition, chauffeur driven
£66,500
Office 01886 884511
Home 01905 620584

300 TE 24
Estate, '90H, Anthracite, auto, lthr, 7 sts, a/c, ASD, alloys, r/cass, alm. Exc. Cond, h/ mls but 1 onr + FMBSH.
£12,950
Private sale
0973 180051

300TE
K reg, Blue-Black, A/C, 7 seats, 8 hole alloys, Sport Cloth, ESR, Radio/ CD, FMBSH, 1 Lawyer owner, 74,000 mls.
£16,500
Tel 01483 283791

MERCEDES WANTED

1987 1995 Premium prices paid for all Mercedes. Glenn Williams 01372 749090.T

JOHN WATSON will race to buy your car. Top prices paid for Mercedes-Benz. Call Today 0468 508496

SL Cabriolet Required. Lancaster 0860 308333/0831 344705

WANTED Wanted. All Mercedes, any miles / condition. 01628 660413 / 0831 123911 now T

190 2.5 Cosworth
for private buyer. Must be one owner & low mileage.
Please Call: 01386 710277.

MG

MGC
Roadster 1968, powerful 3.0, English white, beautifully restored, original condition, £9,500.
Tel: 0171 386 8485

Stratstone WESTMINSTER
The only numbers you need when buying or selling
MGF's
TEL: 0171 4340801
TEL: 0468 505623

WAITING LIST's-WHY WAIT?
Porsche, Mercedes, BMW, MGF, Lexus Coupes plus Others.
Enquiries to Andrew on
0421 926002 or Fax: 0181 426 5922

HIRE ME! from only £150/day

Automania
CAR CLUB & SELF-DRIVE HIRE
For colour brochure and details telephone: 07000 280280

MG

MGF
1.8i, April 96, B.R.Green, vgc, FSH, extras, high mileage hence £15,750.
01273 721049.

MGF.
5000 mls. 96'N'. 1.8i. BRG PAS, ABS, FMGSH. £17,850.
01296-715835. (Bucks).

MGF
BR Green
Passenger air bag
7,500 miles
N reg, February 96, Immaculate
£16,100.
Tel: 01892 536934 or mobile 04689 80249

MGF VVC
Brg, July'96. 7k, hard top, luggage rack, Ex. warranty, MGF No, wood facia. £19,250.
01603 891703/ 01263 724711

MGF
VVC BRG ½ leather wood finish, PAS, 7K, May 96 tracker, £19,950.
Tel: 0410 324 787.

MGF VVC
Dec 96 P, BRG. 1,400 miles, as new, garaged. £18,750.
0171 581 9575 (O)

MGF
VVC met charcoal, 96N, 9500 miles, FSH, 1 owner. airbags, £19,000ono.
01454 228781.

MG

MGF
June 96 metallic British Racing Green, PAS, very low mileage, Very Good Condition, alloys, Warranty.
£17,750.
01706 374792

MGF VVC
96N, BRG, 7k, garaged, fogs, hi-stop, why wait?
£19,950 ono
0973 224163.

MGF VVC
96P, BRG, 1700 mls, full lthr, CD, ggd. Pvt plate.
£20,000
0171 521 2377.

MORGAN

+8
L reg, Burgundy red met, stone lthr int, walnut dash, 600 mls.
£32,000
01767 640250.

MOTORBIKES

DANISH CLASSIC,
1937, Nimbus 4 in line, original sidecar totally restored, garaged spares, handbook, MOT, tax.
Price £7,500
(Salisbury)
Call 01722 324462 after 6pm

Harley Davidson
March 1993, 883 Hugger, belt drive, 404 miles, as new.
£4200. 01536 790465.

NISSAN

SKYLINE GTR now in the UK. New & used Skylines direct from Japan. Intercar 0181 208 3399.

NISSAN WANTED

NISSAN 300ZX wanted low mileage pref lthr Mole Valley Motor Group 0181 394 1114

PERFORMANCE CARS

AC Cobra Lightweight (1990) (320BHP) Chichester Blue/ Magnolia Leather, 3,000 Miles, £57,000. Graypaul 01509 232233

DODGE Viper 95M Signal Red/ Grey Leather, Superb, 6,000 miles £38,850. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

RANGE Rover SE Auto 4.5 Litre (270BHP) 93L, 25,000 miles, Westminster Grey, Winchester, Massive Spec (Conversion Cost £20,000) £26,750. Graypaul 01509 232233

INTAGRALE
(Lancia)
Evo LHD
Dealer collection no. 143
Met red, beige lthr, full spec, July 95. 18k, FSH, air, etc.
£27,000
01403 891504/ 0378 778740.

ROYALE SABRE 2.9i
95 Auto ADS, maroon, cloth trim, hard & soft top, elec windows, CL, wires, 25k.
£19,250
01233 624813.

The devil's own car Dodge Viper, 1994.
Stunning red with less than 4,000 miles on the clock, newly imported from USA.
£39,950.
May consider part exchange.
No dreamers please.
Office *01704 539300*, Home *01704 834164*, Mobile *0831 627483*.

PORSCHE

BOXSTER
Silver/full red leather, air con, 17" alloys, CD, delivery mileage, £45,000.
0385 364292(mob)
0181 6822447.

BOXSTER
1st reg 10/3/97. Arena red metallic, full leather interior, trip tronic, air con, 17" wheels. £48,000.
Tel: 01624 673780.

BOXSTER
Total spec, list £45K, silver/full red lthr, air con, hard top & exclusive extras.
£52,000.
0181 8773299(W).

OFFICIAL PORSCHE CENTRES

Merlin NOTTINGHAM
[illegible]
Buying or Selling contact Keith, Alan or David
01159 420944

Stratstone WILMSLOW
[illegible]
Buying or Selling contact Andy or David
07000 367911

Merlin CARDIFF
[illegible]
Buying or Selling contact Lance
01222 614622

Representing PORSCHE in three regions of England & Wales
Our experts buy and sell PORSCHE 100% of the time
OPEN THIS SUNDAY 10.00am - 3.00pm

Lancaster

COLCHESTER

	CABRIOLETS	
95N	911 C4 Arena	7T
96N	911 Carrera Iris, Air	8T
94L	911 Carrera Midnight	29T
93K	911 C2 Coral	19T
93L	911 C2 Tipt Silver	20T
92J	911 C4 Silver	24T
	COUPES	
96N	911 Turbo 4 Midnight	7T
95N	911 Turbo 4 Silver	8T
93L	911 3.6 Tbo Burgundy	38T
96N	911 Carrera Midnight, Air	7T
95M	911 C4 Midnight, Air	30T
95M	911 Tip S Black, Air	13T
95N	911 Tipt 'S' Midnight	16T
94M	911 Tipt 'S' Midnight, Air	37T
95N	911 Carrera Turquoise	21T
94M	911 Carrera Slate	10T
94M	911 C4 Iris, Air	16T
94L	968 CS Yellow, ESR	30T
	TARGA	
96N	911 Carrera Iris, Air	8T

01206 855500
0850 716911
0850 715911

CAMBRIDGE

96N	911 Targa Zenith	6T
96N	911 Targa Turquoise	8T
96N	911 Carrera 4 Iris, Air	9T
96N	911 Carrera Cab Turquoise	3T
96N	911 Carrera Cpe Midnight, Air	5T
95N	911 Carrera 4 S Silver, Air	3T
95M	911 Tip 'S' Cab Aventura	14T
95M	911 Carrera Cab Tip 'S' Guards	9T
95N	911 Carrera Tip S Cab Iris	12T
95M	911 Carrera Cab Red, 18"	15T
95M	911 Carrera Cpe Silver	27T
94M	911 Carrera Cab Red, Air	55T
93K	911 C2 Cab Tip White, Air, W/Body	24T
96H	944 S2 Black	68T
90G	944 Turbo Grey, Air	49T
90G	944 S2 White	55T
94L	968 Sport Red	26T
94L	968 Club Sport Yellow	35T
93L	968 Club Sport White	30T
93L	968 Coupe Tip Red	43T
96P	C36 Mercedes AMG Silver	6T
94L	Ferrari 348 GTS Rosso	9T
91J	Ferrari Testarossa Yellow	19T

All models available for demonstration

01223 872872
0589 789446

LONDON

	CABRIOLET	
96	911 C4 Silver, Air, 18"	5T
96	911 C4 Midnight, Air, 18"	1T
96N	911 Carrera Arena, Air, 17"	10T
96N	911 Carrera Silver, 17"	8T
95M	911 Tip S Guards, Air, 17"	10T
93L	911C2 Midnight Blue	21T
	COUPE	
96N	911 Turbo 4 Speed Yellow	7T
95N	911 Turbo 4 Polar Silver	13T
96	911 C4 S Midnight Blue	4T
96	911 C4 S Black Met	9T
96N	911 C4 S Iris Blue	14T
96N	911 C4 Arena Red, Air, 17"	10T
96N	911 Carrera Silver, Air, 17"	11T
96N	911 Carrera Black Met, 17"	16T
95N	911 Tip S Slate, Air, 17"	11T
96N	911 Carrera Arena, Air, 17"	10T
94L	911 Tip Slate Grey, Air	24T
93L	968 Cobalt Blue, Air	43T
	TARGA	
96	911 Tip S Midnight Blue	1T
96N	911 Tip S Polar Silver	9T
96N	911 Tip S Black Met	5T
96	911 6 Spd Arena Red	5T
	SPECIALIST	
93K	Ferrari 512 TR Rosso	9T
95M	Audi RS2 Polar Silver	26T

0181 983 4444
0850 968911

We pay top prices for your quality used Porsche. Please call Ian Clark on 0831 344705.

THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

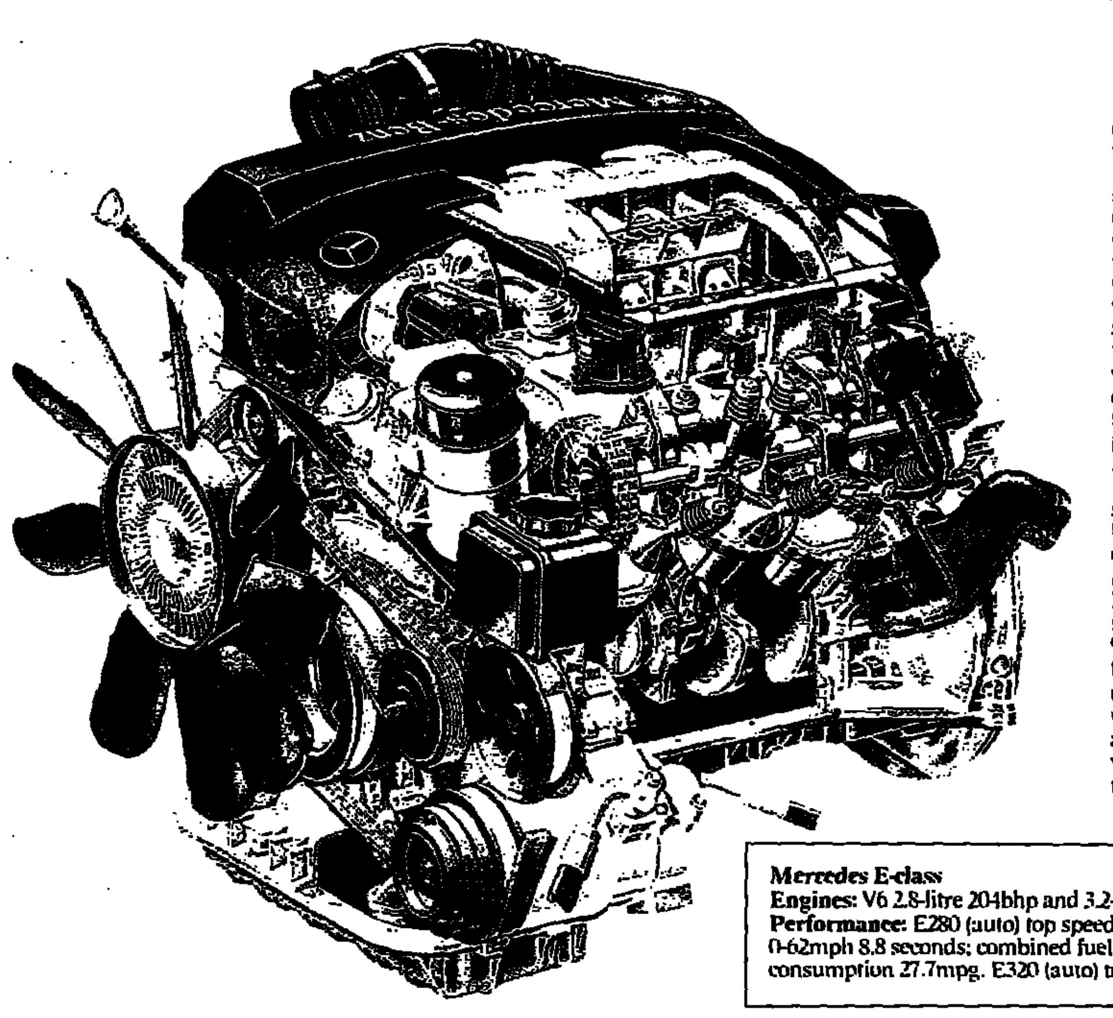
CAR TO SELL? RING THE TIMES 01714814000

TIMES CLASSIFIED MEANS SATISFIED

هكذا من الأصل

Stuart Birch reports on a Mercedes system that could cut motorists' garage bills by up to 30 per cent

Need a service? This engine is able to tell you



Mercedes-Benz has introduced Active Service. But don't worry, that doesn't mean camouflage paintwork and a gun turret on the roof.

Mercedes' Active Service System is being introduced for its new V6 engines fitted initially to the luxurious E-class — and it could lead to phenomenally long oil change intervals. The system determines when an individual car's next service is due, based on information supplied by micro-computers which take account of oil levels and quality, temperatures, engine revs, speeds and loads, to which the power unit has been subjected, plus information from the gearbox.

BMW has had something similar since 1983, but its system is now based mainly on the number of engine starts, plus some other inputs. They use a series of green lights which extinguish as the service time approaches — typically 9,500 miles for a 5-series and 8,000 for a 3-series. Mercedes has a digital display on the dashboard warning that a service is due — although, being Mercedes, that warning will initally come up 1,800 miles in advance of the event!

The point of all this is to save customers money. Fixed service intervals based only on mileage do not allow for specific use. A car that spends most of its life cruising steadily on motorways with engine revs and temperatures kept within relatively narrow parameters would require servicing less often.

Mercedes agrees: "Depending on driving styles, some owners can extend oil change intervals with the new V6 engine to as much as 18,600 miles — even longer."

Other manufacturers will look askance at such a figure and Mercedes is not pretending that it is the norm — but says it is possible and that average figures will not be that much less. E-class cars with the previous straight six-cylinder engine needed servicing every 9,000 miles. Now owners of a V6 Mercedes should save about 30 per cent on engine service costs.

The new V6s are impressive in other ways. They are lightweight, efficient and environmentally clean. Initially available in 2.8 and 3.2-litre forms in E-class saloons and estates, they will also be used in other model ranges.

They feature three valves per cylinder instead of four — which Mercedes says in a V6 is an aid to cleaner emissions — and there is enough space for a second spark plug which is also good news for emissions. The engines are said to offer a 13 per cent fuel consumption improvement compared to the previous in-line sixes.

Linked to five-speed automatic gearboxes, they give the level of quiet, smooth response expected of a big Mercedes saloon, although step off could sometimes be a shade jerky. Just caused by my big right foot? Possibly, but I don't think so.

The new V6 E280 and E320, like other E-class models (and eventually all Mercedes cars), get brake assist, already described by *Car 97*, which gives added stopping power in full emergency braking.

Other upgrades in standard equipment (the cars cost about 3 per cent more than the old ones, with the E280 Classic starting at £33,480) include air-conditioning, with sunroof an option, a more advanced traction skid control and a system to prevent the passenger airbag deploying if a child seat is being used. Mercedes quite rightly says that children should use a proper seat in the rear of the car.

The traditional ignition key is replaced by an electronic unit. It is said that an average computer would take 90 years to throw up the correct code.

There is one other change to the standard E-class specification as well: a radio/cassette is fitted, with a choice of Sony or Blaupunkt. Their value can be used to offset still higher specification equipment. In the past, Mercedes (and BMW) argued long and hard that these should be optional extras to individual customer choice — questionable when even most of the cheapest cars on the market had a radio. Now, suddenly but belatedly, those well-aired arguments have evaporated; both companies are entering the real world of customer in-car entertainment expectations.

And within months all Mercedes models will come with a radio as standard — a revelation that will bring a knowing smile to the faces of car sales staff everywhere.

Mercedes E-class
Engines: V6 2.8-litre 204bhp and 3.2-litre 224bhp.
Performance: E280 (auto) top speed 143 mph, 0-62mph 8.8 seconds; combined fuel consumption 27.7mpg. E320 (auto) top speed 148mph, 0-62mph 7.7 seconds; combined fuel consumption 27.4mpg.
Prices: E280 Classic, £33,480; Elegance, £35,340; Avantgarde, £35,600. E320 Classic, £36,730; Elegance, £38,590; Avantgarde, £38,850.

French power full steam ahead

Ian Morton salutes the arrival of Citroën's new Xantia flagship

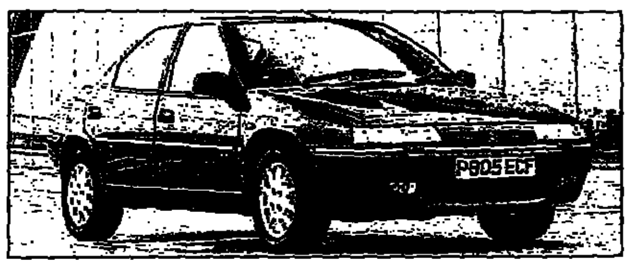
Engines of V6 configuration are modish. Last year British motorists bought 25,000 cars with such units. Even in the popular medium ranges, they have become significant — 5 per cent of Mondeos and 10 per cent of Vectras are sold with these powerful and prestigious units.

Now Citroën is to join the fray. A new Xantia V6 flagship sets sail soon into the UK market, and it has a bigger gun than its mainstream target rivals in the battle for downsizing executive and family customers. While the Ford and Vauxhall pack 2.5 litres apiece, the Xantia carries 3.0 litres. It is also an automatic.

So are Mondeo and Vectra outgunned? With manual transmission they have a quicker rate of fire and the Vectra is cheaper, but in automatic specification their performance fades and Xantia clearly wins the day, getting from 0-60mph in 8.3 seconds and rounding out at 140mph. According to manufacturers' data, the Mondeo takes 10 seconds and makes 130mph, while the Vectra needs 9 seconds and just holds its own with 141 mph. The Citroën certainly triumphs on price — £21,995 when it arrives here in June, against the current top-version Mondeo automatic at £23,555 and Vectra at £22,430.

This 60-degree all-alloy V6 engine delivers 194bhp at 5,500rpm, but most importantly for instant power flow releasing most of its 197lb ft or torque at only 2,000rpm. What makes it even more impressive is how the automatic transmission handles this output. An advanced "adaptive" gearbox with computer control, it senses the engine management system, the style or mood of the driver (who can manually select normal, sporty or winter ratios), the weight of extra passengers and luggage, and the road characteristics, then chooses one of a dozen available shift patterns to suit the moment.

Neither is the thunder of battle deafening. Even as it rushes up to its 6,500rpm deadline/cutout, the engine utters nothing more than a spirited snarl. No owner will be discouraged by mechanical noise from utilising this muscular unit to the full.



Citroën Xantia V6: spare, sinewy, balanced and eager

Fiercely capable performance is matched by an able chassis. Though the V6 has yet to acquire Citroën's extraordinary "Activa" suspension (that will be offered later), its self-levelling Hydractive computer-controlled system serves with conspicuous gallantry, keeping the car flat in the close-run corners. The tyres grip impressively, a scruff and a squawk informing the driver when no man's land is close.

Ride on average surfaces is firmish without being harsh and if an undulating surface causes a succession of mild resonances in the interior as struts and springs compress, this is all part of the impression of being close to the terrain and in control of it.

In everything it does this Xantia feels spare, sinewy, balanced and eager, and the impression admirably suits the trim shape and taut build quality. There is a completeness here that not many cars achieve. And though Citroen describes the "Exclusive" trim level as luxurious, the sober hues of leather and alcantara upholstery and of woodgrain do not subvert its character.

Other goodies — air-conditioning, cruise control, electric multi-adjustment of the front seats, twin airbags, six-speaker CD audio, electric windows all round, remote-control central locking, ABS brakes — sit equally naturally in such a dynamically capable car.

Citroën Xantia V6
Engine: V6 3-litre 24-valve developing 194 bhp at 5,500rpm and 197lb ft of torque at 4,000rpm.
Transmission: Four-speed adaptive automatic with 88-channel computer, three modes and 12 shift patterns.
Performance: 0-60mph in 8.3 seconds, maximum speed 140mph.
Economy: Urban 16.4mpg, extra urban 33.6mpg, combined 24.4mpg.
Price: £21,995.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

AJ 44 £9,950 Tel: 01295 758355 t
FCA 1 £14,500 Tel 01295 758355 t

6 ACE
ON RETENTION
OIRO £10,000
01223 246898

H80 WEN £2,500 Tel 01295 758355 t
N19 SLK £1200 ono 0831 214054 01298 662940. T

A1 STF
A2 STF
A3 STF
The set £2,000ono
A1 KEF
A2 JWF
Offers
01452 720851
0374 457656

C 51 £16,500 Tel: 01295 758355 t

H12 SLK £2,000
H16 SLK £1,750
P12 OBE £3,000
H11 XKB £2,000
Private sale
Home
01702 218833

CAR 1B
On retention.
Offers over
£7,000.
01224 582465
01224 626021

123 D on 1993 5 door Clio 6k miles, £27,500. 01305 712111
B1 OOR £10,000 offers TEL: 0973 218220

Premier Plates
Cleenaghan, Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh BT94 2JN
Tel/Fax 01365 388792

KIW1 666 – £620
DAZ 6300 – £300
DAZ 1809 – £298
HAZ 5789 – £250
GII 8353 – £260
MBZ 8504 – £320
NXI 5007 – £420
IBZ 5658 – £298
KJI 3939 – £320
JIL 8484 – £399
XIJ 1872 – £160
SJI 7280 – £170
PJI 4868 – £189
MJI 8162 – £220
NIB 1861 – £275
XOI 7622 – £290
VIA 6363 – £310
MAZ 7711 – £298
ALZ 7227 – £150
JIB 4444 – £950
FIL 4444 – £1250
CAZ 7035 – £298
FAZ 7909 – £210
JIL 9025 – £175
KJI 3895 – £180
HIW 606 – £320
HIL 9479 – £198
HJI 9443 – £188
IIW 1126 – £175
LII 5114 – £169
KIB 7575 – £349
KIB 7005 – £169
JJI 3552 – £269
JIW 6664 – £289
OJI 3711 – £180
NJI 4381 – £160
WIB 1411 – £150
SXI 1200 – £498
SU 121 – £420
XIA 482 – £300
VIJ 759 – £220
EIL 838 – £375
HJI 775 – £420
CBZ 315 – £290
EDZ 872 – £298
WDZ 7022 – £80
UIW 9443 – £50
PBZ 7058 – £75
OAZ 3230 – £89
NIL 5590 – £89
NIL 5591 – £89
IIX 2785 – £60
RJI 1444 – £189
VJI 4059 – £50
VJI 4060 – £50
PAZ 3213 – £80
TIW 8471 – £50

CLASSIC NOUVEAU
REGISTRATIONS

AM 131 £7,850
A 6 OWN £1,750
BE 57 £POA
2 BM £11,950
A740 BMW £2,800
BOO 546 £2,550
BR 15 £7,950
CAR 7 £10,750
5 CCJ £3,850
COS 42 £3,950
4382 DF £1,195
10 DFW £2,950
DM 29 £9,950
9 DN £POA
DW 9007 £2,975
12 ED £4,950
SE 11 £8,950
25 EK £POA
13 EM £POA
1 FDF £POA
FT 38 £POA
A 69 GAL £2,950
GBL 859 £POA
944 GT £POA
HAZ 8 £2,500
30 HD £4,200
HIB 4 POA
HJL 3 £4,500
16 HM £4,500
3 HY £3,750
LGS 313 £POA
LIW 4 £2,400
1 LMO £9,500
4 M £21,000
MJ 42 £7,800
2 MM £14,950

OPPORTUNITY
N16 ELS
N1 GEL sold for £77,500!!

18 JJ £POA
1 JL £40,000
5 JL £12,950
JPS 2 £10,850
XBL 9 £3,850
18 KJ £3,950
40 KO £POA
6161 KW £2,750
L 11 £POA
LCT 747 £POA
MOI 4 £3,600
1 MRY £8,500
33 MS £7,850
2400 MV £2,750
4 N £12,850
N16 ELS £11,750
11 NJ £7,250
NJI 234 £1,450
2 NPJ £3,750
ONA 911 £6,850
2 OH £8,850
P 5 ENT £1,450
P8 NKY £7,950
12 PN £8,895
P 5 OAR £1,850
SA 5 £12,950
12 SAM £5,850
6 F £29,000
5 J £25,500
83 RD £POA
RS 666 £POA
SG 5985 £2,750
39 SM £5,950
SUE 747 £4,500
(AIRCREW)
TBL 47 £2,750
VAK 1 £7,950
VC 33 £6,250
VCS 2 £4,500
I VY £POA
50 WH £4,250
WLT 111 £2,250
2 WPJ £3,500
60 WW £8,800

QUALITY NOs WANTED
01949 851000
OPEN 7 DAYS
M.I.R.A.D
SOME + VAT

DK REGISTRATIONS
Sudbury (01787) 312222
MANY THOUSANDS OF NUMBERS AVAILABLE FROM OUR COMPUTER LISTINGS

CENTURY REGISTRATIONS
PO Box 2667 Bournemouth BH11 8ZD
Tel. 01202 590149 Mobile 0468 735485
+ TRANSFER FEE - NO VAT

Special notice:
DVLA
R
Select
Registrations

The Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency wish to bring to the attention of customers interested in buying R prefix personalised registration numbers, that they are not yet available for purchase. It is expected that they will be released in mid June and will be advertised nearer the time.

No one will be able to enquire of, buy, reserve, or secure a R prefix DVLA Select Registration in advance of their official release.

All DVLA Select Registrations are sold strictly on a first come first served basis and subject to availability.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

The registration numbers R1 LLE, R1 DER, R1 DES, R1 KKY, R1 NOS, R1 OJA, R1 PON and R911 POR and certain other attractive combinations will be sold at DVLA Classic Collection auctions from time to time. Further details about these sales can be obtained from DVLA's auctioneers – telephone 0113 282 0707

REGISTRATION NO'S.
CNDA MEMBERS

THOUSANDS MORE AVAILABLE.
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.
FREE QUOTES. NO OBLIGATION.
1975
22
YEARS
1997
Retail Motor Industry Federation
McMel & Co Ltd
PHONE OR FAX FOR PRICES
TEL: 01277 20 40 20

FOR A FULL LIST WITH PRICES
DIAL-A-FAX
ON YOUR FAX MACHINE & PRESS 'RECEIVE' OR 'START'
CALL: 0336413735
WHEN INDICATED.

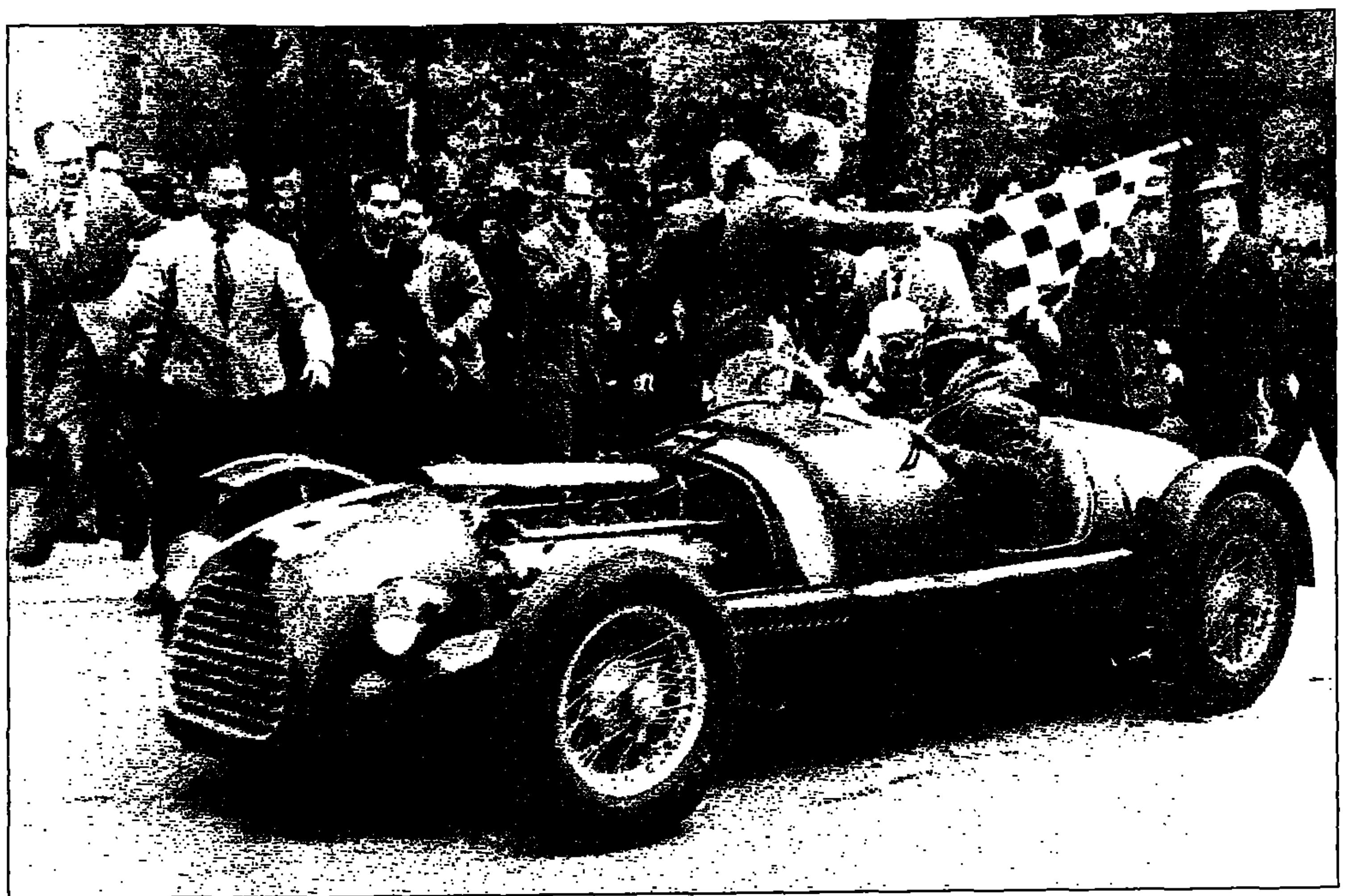
For Full List With Prices Dial-A-Fax On 0336-413735. Press 'Start' Or Trans/Rec On Your Fax Calls Cost 50p per Minute. McMel & Co, Hunter Hse Shenfield Essex CM15 8NL
A Minimum of £100 or 10% deposit secures any mark subject to availability and our terms and conditions. Open 9am to 6.30pm Mon-Sat. 10am to 4pm Sun.

MARK HUNT
OF HULL C.N.D.A.
TEL 01482 865918/860430 PO BOX 33, BEVERLEY, HU17 0SP.

A thousand miles of legend

Peter Miller on 'the most incredible travelling museum in the racing world'

Count Aymo Maggi in 1927


Nuvolari with Scapinelli in their Ferrari during the 1948 Mille Miglia, from which they were forced to retire when leading by 32 minutes

De Portago at his last control before the 1957 fatality at Guidizzolo

Mercedes racing manager Alfred Neubauer with Jenkinson and Moss

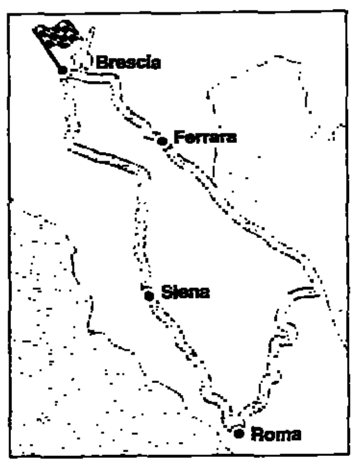
Renowned as a spectacle, condemned as a circus, considered by drivers to be the world's most challenging road race and eventually consigned to history as a desperately dangerous anachronism, the Mille Miglia contributed more than its fair share to motor racing mythology.

As the last voters file into Britain's polling booths on Thursday evening the countdown will begin for this year's running of its revived modern version, a 1,000-mile time trial for historic vehicles, with two overnight stops. It marks a triple anniversary, 70 years since the race was first run, 40 years since it was last run and 20 years since its revival.

For the ever-swelling band of international historic racing enthusiasts it is a vital, thrilling and celebratory event. But for sheer heroics — 1,000 miles non-stop at up to 190mph on public roads — nothing could beat the original race. Attracting the best international drivers of the day, the race was followed by a worldwide audience and throughout Italy posters bearing the distinctive red Mille Miglia symbol of the *freccia rossa*, or "red arrow" were plastered on doors, buildings, roads and bridges. Millions of fans — the *tifosi* — lined every yard of the route cheering their heroes.

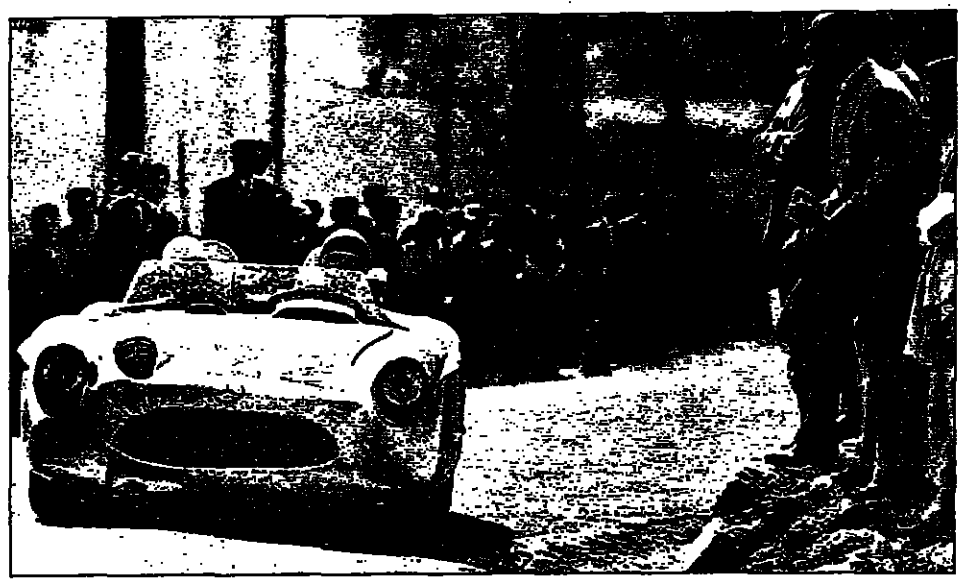
Starting and finishing in his home town of Brescia, Count Aymo Maggi's brilliant conception was the most competitive race ever. It produced thrilling triumphs and glorious defeats, but most of all it created champions. The race produced so many legends: in 1948 the Italian champion Tazio Nuvolari, still considered by some the greatest race driver ever, was accompanied in his Ferrari 166SC by a young factory mechanic Andrea Scapinelli, who always called his hero "maestro".

Grand prix driver Jacky Ickx, left, who hopes to compete again this year



Despite a mountain of problems, they were leading. The bonnet had blown off and gone into the crowd, the driving seat broke and Nuvolari dumped it and continued squatting on a bag of oranges and lemons taken along as iron rations. Then Nuvolari buckled a left front mudguard. Scapinelli pleaded "Maestro, maestro you must stop so I can knock it off." Nuvolari shouted "Hold on!" and in the next village deliberately glanced the Ferrari against a bridge, tearing off the damaged wing without wasting time on a stop. The wing still rests in a museum nearby. Eventually the suspension collapsed, with the chassis dragging on the ground and Nuvolari was forced to retire in the final stages at Reggio Emilia, despite a staggering lead of 32 minutes over the eventual winner, Clemente Biondetti. The inscription on Nuvolari's marble mausoleum at Mantova reads: "Now he motors faster on the highways in heaven."

Biondetti had his own amazing record. At 18 he was penniless and made the money to buy his first race car by buying old bananas from the docks in Genova and selling them to villagers in the mountains. He went on to win the race in 1938, 1947, 1948 and 1949 and died a wealthy landowner.


Moss and Jenkinson winning in 1955 at an average of nearly 99mph, a race record

In 1947, the first post-war event, some of the roads were still mined and petrol and tyres were at a premium. So Count Maggi offered a free tank of petrol and five new tyres to all entrants. No fewer than 294 turned up for scrutineering to collect their rations. Yet when the time to start came only 155 were flagged away, the remainder heading happily back to all corners of Italy with fuel and tyres considered a luxury.

Then there was the incredible drive of Stirling Moss, accompanied by the bearded navigator Denis "Jenks" Jenkinson, who completed the 1,000 miles in a record 10 hours 7 minutes and 48 seconds in 1955 in their Mercedes-Benz 300SLR at nearly 99mph.

The accident in 1957 was exactly what the race directors had dreaded: the Spanish nobleman, the Marchese Alfonso "Fon" de Portago somersaulted his scarlet Ferrari into the crowds beside the road at the exit of the village of Guidizzolo just 25 miles from the finish, killing himself, his American journalist passenger, Ed Nelson, and 10 spectators, including several children.

Observers of the incident said that Portago's probable speed through the village was near to 180mph and he had passed within a couple of feet of some 1,000 young orphans in white suits and dresses seated at trestle tables enjoying their picnic spread. The Ferrari's left front tyre was showing the canvas breaker-strip and de Portago and the children were only separated by a rope barrier.

When the children of Guidizzolo died in 1957, so too did the true spirit of the old Mille Miglia — where a driver was flagged off the wooden starting ramp in Brescia's Viale Rebuffone and hurtled round the route, stopping only for fuel and to have a route-card stamped at eight different controls, showing he had passed through and not found a short cut or two.

A rally-type event was held in 1958, 1959 and 1961 in a rather desultory fashion and then the Mille Miglia fell into obscurity. It was relaunched in 1977 thanks to the vision of the present organising committee headed by Costantino Franchi and is now recognised as a most prestigious event for veteran and historic sports and touring cars.

The first car away on Thursday will be the red "OM" — the celebrated Brescia-built Officine Meccaniche which finished 1,2,3 in 1927.

Even before the start, this year's event has made history. When entries officially closed on December 31, the organisers had received more than 800 applications offering an extraordinary selection of collector's cars from all over the world including 180 from Germany, 62 from Great Britain, 52 from Switzerland, 20 from Argentina and 19 from Japan. For safety reasons, entries have been limited to 350 starters and the event is now justly entitled "the most incredible travelling museum in the world".

After a three-hour run to Ferrara for a brief night stop, the 700 drivers face the next day's stage from Ferrara to Rome for another night's stop before the 15-hour drive back to Brescia. They can expect heavy rain, fog and snow and ice over the mountains of central Italy making the roads just as hazardous as they sometimes were for the original racers. There are numerous timed sections and hill-climbs where times are recorded to one-hundredth of a second using hand-held stop watches or chronometers only, with penalty points being amassed for early or late arrival. Electronic navigational aids are forbidden, after "cheating" by certain works-sponsored entries in their determination to win.

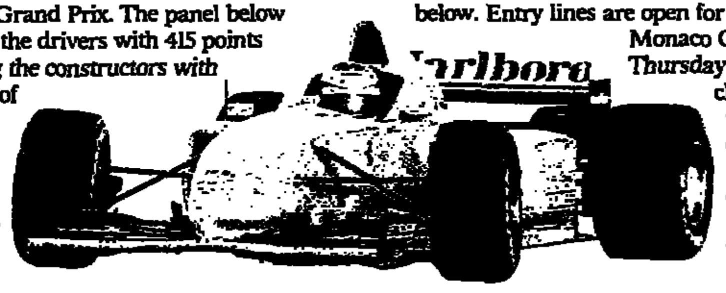
A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Marlboro World Championship Team

On the eve of tomorrow's race, the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola, we reprint the Fantasy Formula One scores for each of the selections after the Argentinian Grand Prix. The panel below shows Berger leading the drivers with 415 points and McLaren heading the constructors with 65 points. Full results of tomorrow's race will appear in Sport next Friday. To register to play our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One game, in association with the Marlboro World Championship Team, just choose a team of six racing drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups listed in the panel below. Entry lines are open for registration for the Monaco Grand Prix until noon, Thursday May 8. You can also check the position of your team(s) by using our checkline below.



- You can also play Fantasy Formula One with *The Sunday Times*

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT: The manager with the best team score on our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the final race of the season, the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril, on October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS: The manager of the team with the most points in tomorrow's San Marino GP will win a VIP trip to the British GP. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250.

TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE Call our entry hotline on 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. You will be asked to nominate your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply.

You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry.

TRANSFERS If you've already entered a team you can change up to four selections before the Monaco Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (++44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday May 8. Your new team must comprise three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three selections you make will be deemed to be your prediction for the Monaco Grand Prix bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check the scores and positions of your team(s) on 0891 884 648 (0044 990 100 348 ex UK) and tap in your 10-digit PIN number. The line currently carries all positions after the Argentinian GP and will be updated on Wednesday April 30 after the San Marino GP.

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

DRIVERS GROUP A					
01 D Hill	37	127	07 M Hakkinen	147	400
02 M Schumacher	13	274	08 D Coulthard	7	273
03 J Villeneuve	162	354	09 R Barrichello	36	113
04 E Irvine	157	270	10 H-H Frentzen	20	242
05 J Alesi	127	291	11 J Herbert	133	274
06 G Berger	143	415	12 M Salo	138	298

DRIVERS GROUP B					
13 O Panis	32	289	19 G Fishichella	32	167
14 J Verstappen	44	143	20 S Nakano	46	273
15 U Katayama	27	153	21 N Larini	66	313
16 P Diniz	40	170	22 J Trulli	132	364
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	117	158
18 R Schumacher	142	207	24 V Sospiri	0	0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C			CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D		
25 Williams	20	49	31 Arrows	-20	-23
26 Ferrari	15	52	32 Sauber	13	44
27 McLaren	12	65	33 Tyrrell	9	3
28 Benetton	21	59	34 Minardi	8	31
29 Jordan	14	3	35 Stewart	7	-23
30 Prost	-20	26	36 Lola	0	0

The first column of figures in light type after the names show the Fantasy Formula One Argentinian GP race scores, the second column the total competition points so far

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE 0891 405 001

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

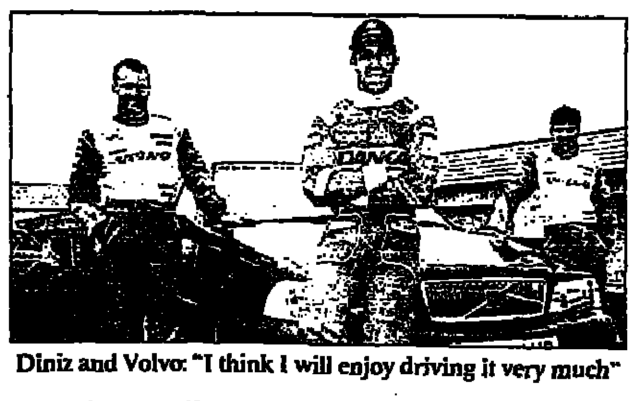
CHANGING TIMES

Racing after the high-speed Saint

Kevin Eason on who's driving the Volvo C70

If you spot Volvo's sleek new coupé in the next few weeks, stand well back because it probably has a racing driver at the wheel.

Pedro Diniz and Damon Hill have just taken delivery of a C70 each, a perk of the job if you drive for TWR's Arrows Formula One team because it also runs the Volvo entry in the British Touring Car Championships.


Diniz and Volvo: "I think I will enjoy driving it very much"

The C70s are the first in this country and will sharpen Volvo's new image as a maker of sporty cars, an image honed by TWR which has made Volvo successful in the touring cars series. Even if you don't spot Diniz or Hill in theirs, you will be able to see the C70 starring with Val Kilmer at the movies in *The Saint*.

Pedro warmed to his new company car on his first outing after it was delivered to him this week at Silverstone, where he was testing his Arrows ready for the San Marino grand prix at Imola this weeked.

"It handles well and there is no turbo lag. The engine is also very smooth. I think I will enjoy driving it very much."

Son of a multi-millionaire supermarket magnate in Brazil, Pedro not only has a C70 here, he has also been given one to go the shops back home in Monaco, where presumably he has to tune in his satellite dish to watch rounds of the touring cars championship.

Things are not going entirely to plan for TWR Volvo S40 Racing, the team we are following this season. Alain Menu, in his Renault Laguna prepared by Williams, is still the man to beat, winning both rounds at Silverstone last weekend, but Rickard Rydell is second in the championship and looks stronger with each race. Kelvin Burt is fourth in the standings.

But the S40 is still a relatively new car and each race brings an improvement, with Rydell and Burt hoping to reel in the Renault. Next round is on May 4 and 5 at Thruxton.

مكتبة الاهرام

هكذا من الاصل

REGISTRATION NO'S. CNDA MEMBERS

REGISTRATION TRANSFERS
139 HIGH STREET SOUTH
DUNSTABLE, BEDS LU6 3SS
FAX (01582) 607713
regtransfers@dial.pipex.com
TELEPHONE EST 1982
01582 477333
(MON-FRI 9AM-7PM, SAT 10AM-4PM, SUN 10AM-4PM)
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
Retail Motor Industry Federation
Cherished Numbers Dealers Association

BUYERS:- OVER 1 MILLION REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE ON OUR DATABASE RANGING FROM £195-£100,000. **TELEPHONE NOW!**
SELLERS:- FREE QUOTATIONS & MATCHING SERVICE. **TELEPHONE NOW!**

TELEPHONE NOW FOR OUR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE

MILLIONS OF NUMBERS ON OUR WEBSITE
HTTP://WWW.REGTRANSFERS.CO.UK

DIAL-A-FAX
TO RECEIVE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF OUR REGISTRATIONS DIAL FROM YOUR FAX M/C & PRESS 'START' OR SEND RECEIVE
0336 411479
Calls charged at 50p/min daytime and 45p/min evenings and weekends

PLEASE TELEPHONE FOR THE BEST PRICE FOR ANY REGISTRATION IN THIS ADVERT

ALL NUMBERS SUBJECT TO OUR TERMS, CONDITIONS AND AVAILABILITY

0121 353 3333
ORDER BY PHONE TODAY
email: midland.reg@virgin.net
Opening Hours: SAT 9am-5pm, SUN 10am-3pm, MON - FRI 9am-7pm (Visitors Welcome).
Midland House, Chester Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B74 3ED.
MIDLAND MR REGISTRATIONS

The Most Affordable And Quickest Way To Obtain Your Own Personalised Registration

B18 TVR

JUST CHOOSE ANY A, B, H, J, K, L, M, N OR P PREFIX, NUMBER BETWEEN 1 AND 20 (ALSO SELECTED HIGHER NUMBERS) AND THREE LETTERS OF YOUR CHOICE.

PRICES START FROM ONLY £139

Then We Do The Rest

- * **WE HANDLE THE ENTIRE TRANSFER** to your vehicle at no extra cost, cutting out all the red tape and bureaucracy involved.
- * **GUARANTEED 7 DAY TRANSFERS** The numbers purchased through this box will be transferred within 7 working days of receiving your documents - or the registration is FREE! No one else offers this service. Not applicable to N.I.
- * **WE OFFER A RESALE OPTION** Whereby a profit is usually achieved. eg: recent sale of B9 DEB @ £1,599

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES!
We are so confident that our prices are as low as they possibly can be that we guarantee to at least match the price quoted by another firm, where we are both simultaneously advertising an identical registration mark.

• BARGAIN BASEMENT •

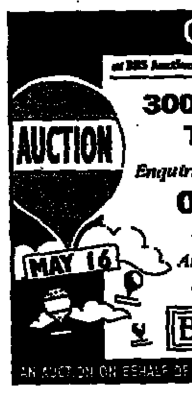
For a more comprehensive list of all types of registrations call 0336 41[illegible] on your fax machine and press start or send receive when instructed.

Thousands more available, thousands more wanted. Phone for details.

Some subject to VAT. Subject to our terms and availability. All + DVT fee. For your security all calls are recorded

---

CNDA AUCTION



at BRS Auctions, Rowley Drive, Coventry on Friday May 16th 1997

300 NUMBER PLATES TO BE OFFERED

Enquiries and catalogue hotline number
01203 639933
(Priced £7.00)

Auction to be held at BRS Auctions Rowley Drive, Coventry CV3 4FG

BRS **Auction commences at 10am May 16th**

AN AUCTION ON BEHALF OF THE CHERISHED NUMBERS DEALERS ASSOCIATION

BUDGET BUYS

ALB 81Y	£380	MAT 246V	£480
AMY 570Y	£550	590 XMB	£750
E824 ANN	£480	NBS 7W	£600
B5 APC	£600	A13 MDC	£400
B5 ASB	£800	MDP 3X	£500
561 BBE	£750	B7 MDS	£600
983 BFJ	£600	MHV 1X	£600
544 BFR	£700	804 NAA	£600
899 BGA	£700	8216 NG	£600
BRW 682	£500	868 NHW	£700
BRY 341Y	£480	804 NMF	£600
BUN 4W	£550	A570 PAT	£450
CAW 998	£500	PTF 307	£600
B7 CPS	£600	PU 2732	£600
B7 DAS	£600	B2 REX	£700
836 DYB	£700	RJB 50Y	£650
591 ECJ	£600	RMV 510	£700
EGR 4W	£400	ROB 46Y	£680
EJV 675	£600	E56 RON	£480
FO 5715	£800	C44 RSM	£380
FSU 918	£480	SAL 594X	£480
B7 GBS	£600	B7 SJP	£600
B6 GER	£600	H5 SOL	£300
782 GHN	£600	M3 SPT	£600
B2 GTS	£600	A11 SSG	£750
771 HWL	£600	E874 SUE	£480
632 HYB	£480	TAG 7W	£550
B7 JBS	£600	THO 5T	£600
B2 JCS	£700	410 TKP	£600
B5 JDC	£600	A22 TLG	£350
B7 JDS	£600	TMS 9X	£600
A480 JEF	£480	TTR 378	£600
692 JGY	£600	740 TTT	£600
JOE 586W	£450	TURBO 7W	£800
B6 JRC	£600	TVR 248X	£450
A911 JSM	£600	UUO 384	£450
F22 KEV	£450	894 VMF	£600
B2 KJE	£400	VRW 833	£850
4347 KO	£600	892 WAE	£600
812 KTV	£600	B7 WED	£600
781 LBH	£600	A80 WET	£300
LES 511X	£480	144 WPA	£700
LFB 858	£700	WSU 676	£500
LLE 445	£600	WTR 57	£900
LLO 300	£600	WUD 80X	£600
B7 LOL	£600	861 WYB	£500
LON 368	£700	YCT 187	£550
B6 LOW	£900	YWB 605	£550
LSK 808	£600		

NE NUMBERS CNDA
0191 520 2200

TIMAN REGISTRATIONS

50 BC	£7500	GRE 850N	£3500
50 CX	£8750	JOI 1	£8500
8 CO	£4650	ORU 1	£4850
50 FT	£8750	88 RB	£8950

K9 AMO (I LOVE DOGS) £1995
A14 COM (A1 FOR COMPUTERS) £995
B8 CUT (HAIRDRESSER) £995
H20 DUO (WATER COUPLE) £995
B16 ENG (ENGINE) £1295
B3 FIT (BE FIT!) £1295
A3 GUD (GOOD 3 SERIES) £995
B3 GUD (BE GOOD!) £1295
H1 KUT (HIGH CUT!) £7295
B16 NET (BIG NET) £1295
ORZ 750 (BMW 750) £795
POR 203 (PORSCHE) £1995
A11 PUL (ALL PULL) £1295
B8 RED (SOCCER FAN) £995
K9 SPY (GUARD DOG) £1295
K9 UNO (NO 1 DOG) £1495

ADL 723	£1895	10 MOE	£2295
DAZ 9250	£295	204 ROD	£2250
444 DBC	£1595	958 TOD	£1595
A 78AN	£995	WS 7485	£1895

More available, more wanted.
Some plus VAT. All + £80 Transfer.
Est 1975 CNDA members
01509 217105 (7 days)

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

BENTLEY Continental R, 1992, 30,600 miles, two owners. Estimate £90,000-110,000. For sale by auction at Olympia, London on 8th May. Catalogues available, contact Brooks Ltd on 0171-228 8000

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

SILVER SPIRIT
'81, green, interior in red hide, 85K. £15,000 incl Private Plate UP 4, MOT.
01298 72451.

BENTLEY TURBO S
Rare 'sports' limited edition, private sale, January 1995, red pearl with magnolia hide, piped St James red. 1 owner, 8,900 miles, distributor history, warranty until January 98, picnic table, Hirschmann aerial radio muting control, CD.
price on application.
Tel: 0181 2019091
Fax: 0181 2019093

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

BENTLEY Brooklands 8,500mls, RRSH, Royal ebony, sports seats, stunning example £62,000 Mon-Fri 9-5 0171 403 7017 w/end 0171 231 4572.

SPIRIT 1983, Oyster/red leather, 67,000 miles, FSH, £16,500. Tel: 01835 830520.

BENTLEY 8
1987, Georgian Silver/ Blue Leather Interior, 50k,
£19,500
080 2222 450

TURBO R
MAY 1996
Peacock Blue with Sandstone hide piped blue, plus extras. One owner from new, 2,700 miles. Full Jack Barclay Service History. Full warranty until May 1999. Pristine condition.
Price £95,000
0171 272 8707 (O)
0181 441 6141 (H)

86
Bently turbo LWB Met dark blue, magnolia interior, 48K m, excellent condition, FSH, £22,000.
0956 833 088.

CAMARGUE
Oct 1982, fully refurbished in 1996, too many added luxuries to list. FRRSH, MOT 1998, immaculate & stunning.
£34,500
0181 954 0069/
0850 740 078

MULLINER-PARK-WARD
2 door coupe, 1970 in excellent condition, part ex possible, £16,000ovno.
01904 481058 Home
01904 671270 Office

SPIRIT II 90
Active ride
Rhapsody with beige hide piped dk blue. 67k. FRRSH, 1 previous onr, immac throughout.
£31,950
0117 937 4623 (h)/
954 1011 (o).

Rolls Royce CORNICHE 1981
One Owner, 65,000 miles
Willow Gold, Stone leather piped Brown, Brown Everflex roof, FSH
Totally Immaculate & Original.
£35,000
Tel (daytime): 0181 421 8686
Tel (eves): 01923 822844

Hooper Alpe
50 Marylebone. High Street, London W1M 3AD
MULSANNE S 91
Vermillion/Parchment, only 22,000 miles, Superb ... £29,500
TURBO R 90
Silver Blue/Blue, Sunroof, Many Extras, 36,000 miles £43,000
SPIRIT 88
Silver/Parchment, Many Extras, 54,000 miles, Stunning £27,950
MULSANNE Turbo L.W.B. 85
Exeter Blue/Light Blue, 52,000 miles £21,500
Tel: 0171 935 1124

SILVER SPIRIT
1986 D. Vermillion with white everflex roof. Parchment hide, red piping, taxed. MOT, 46,000 miles, FSH, excellent throughout.
£22,950.
Tel: 01179 631023.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED

ABSOLUTE keenest buyers of Rolls Royce & Bentley's. Sunningdale Mtr 01344 20072

WANTED Wanted, Rolls & Bentley Models, Any miles/cond. 01628 660413 or 0831 123911

ROVER

SMC OFFER over 300 approved Rovers e.g. 97(P) Sterling, 2k £20950; 96(P) 820 Coupe, 13k £18500; 95(N) 827 coupe auto 19k £17600; 96(P) 820i Auto, 3k £21950; 96(P) 620 Ti, A/c, 7k £16950; 96(P) 216 Cab auto 7k £15600. + 30 Sterlings from £8995. SMC 01753 574266.

MINI
Cooper 96 2000 miles dark blue with sand leather interior, electric windows, stereo, full length ESR, warranty. £10,500.
Tel: 0956 833 088.

MINI COOPER
1.3 New Ed.
The Italian Job!
Delivery mls only. Elec blue/Wht trim, veneered dash, full Rover wnty. Worth £9,000, only £7,900 ovno. 01487 824295 (eves & w/ends)/ 01480 460650 (off hrs - Christine).

SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS

A large selection of 96N &(P) Registered Saab Models including Convertibles at large savings. Freephone Kentish Saab for full Stock List 0800 513900

SAAB ON THE INTERNET. http://www.kentishsaab.co.uk.

SAAB

900 Convertible 2.0S; '96N reg. Black / Sand leather, walnut, immobiliser, FSSH. 18,500 miles £19,760. 0113 2504207

900 2.0SE 5dr man, '95M, Black, 16k, A/c, Immob/alarm, wnty, FSH £14,400. 0181 857 5636.

900 Turbo
Conv, Black, 92K 39,000 mls
Leather trim, FSH
All standard extras.
Immaculate
£15,950ono.
Tel: 0171 736 7196

2.0s
Conv
Auto
95N, a/con, met. ruby/gray lthr, factory alarm/immob. Saab s/cover Aug 98. Just serviced, 30k, FSH, immac.
£18,500
Mr Brown, 01783 273377 (office) Herts. 0468 877132 (mobile).

SAAB

900 XS
96 P reg, 5dr, Metallic Silver, lux velour rocky black int. A/C, ABS, PAS, twin airbags, usual Saab features + extras. 1 lady owner, 17,000 miles, FSH, as new condition. £15,995 for quick sale.
Tel: 01608 810161 / 0171 4034766 WK.

SUBARU

LEGACY TURBO SALOON
92(K), green, ESR, FSH, 68k, 2 prev onrs.
£7750
01567 830377.

SUZUKI

CAPUCCINO
L reg, 36k mls, red, good cond, MOT Jan 98.
£8500 ono
01485 520778.

TVR

CERBERA (96P) Racing Red, Magnolia Hide, Air Conditioning, 2,000 miles £37,500. Grayparck 01509 232233

CHIMAERA 4.0 HC N '95 14K mls Starmist Green/Doeskin 1/2 hide, CD cassette, 20 month warranty, excellent condition, FSH, £28,995. 0973 794021.

S3
2.9 J reg 16K red FSH alrm/imob CD
£15,500.
W 0171 956 5864
M 0370 312 788.

S3C
1991 J FTVRSH, 24,000 miles, CD, lovely condition, £13,750
Tel:
07000 327 982.

H.R.OWEN
LONDON'S SPORTS CAR CENTRE
WE WANT YOUR TVR
PHONE NOW!
Tel: 0171-225 2007
or 0836 222 949

TVR

GRIFFITH 500 (96P) Formula Red, Magnolia Hide, 4,000 Miles £34,000. Grayparck 01509 232233

Performance Car Club · Self Drive Hire
TVR CHIMAERA 4.0
A classic British sportscar For Daily Hire
Also Ferrari 348TS and SLK 230
Join our exclusive car club now!!
For colour brochure and details telephone:
07000 280280

CHIMAERA
4.0. 95N, Starmist Chianti, Parhment half hide interior, CD, 7k miles,
£27,500
0181 980 7614

CHIMAERA
4 litre, 1994, red, full hide, 18,000 miles, 5 months TVR warranty. Excellent condition.
£25,000.
Tel: 0973 760392.

CHIMAERA
93, L13 TVR, Green / lthr, 24K, TVRFSH.
£22,750. Priv sale.
0171 381 5465

TVR WANTED

WANTED all low mileage TVR's. Please contact Charles Eyston, Mole Valley. 0181 394 1114.

TOYOTA

CHEAPEST Toyotas possible. The Toyota Shop really do try harder 01520 722636 anytime

CELICA Cabriolet, 2.0 Auto.
1995 M. Black. Rare turbo body. Air con. Low mileage. Many extras.
£21,000.
SUPRA 3.0 Auto, Twin Turbo.
1995 N. White, coded wheels, low miles, air con, many extras.
£32,700.
Tel: 0181 444 8828.

CELICA GT4
95N, storm blue, a/c, s/r, e/w, a/w, alarm, 38k, tracker, rare car.
£25,595
0385 992 775/
01666 824 633.

VOLKSWAGEN

NEW VW's: Golf GTi's fr £11,900; VR6 from £15,900. Finance avail Tel 01582 650678. T

GOLF
Driver N 1800cc ESR PS Met green 15K m 17 month warr.
£11,300.
0181 546 8509.

VOLKSWAGEN

SAVINGS on One Day Old VW's with delivery mileage. Not imports. Tel: 01480 812239 T

GOLF
F reg, white, vgc, 1 yrs MOT, stereo, deserves a happy home. £2300ono.
0171 3511748.

GOLF Driver 1.8
1996 N reg, 9,000 miles, fully serviced. Alarm, sunroof, immaculate inside and out, black.
£11,000
strictly no offers.
Call Dan on
0171 704 6659
or 0467 382939.

GOLF VR6 Highline
5 dr, purple violet, blackberry lthr, air con, ABS, ATC, ESR, EW, htd seats, CL, VAG alarm, full VW sport pack, 7k mls, FSH, 1 owner, 1 lady owner, immaculate.
£18,250
01234 825562.

VOLVO AUTHORISED

VOLVO

850 ESTATES
96P SE T5 MAN Dark Olive, 4k £21495
96P SE T5 AUTO Verdi, Est Pack, 8k £22995
96P CD T5 AUTO Blue Met, Est Pack, 9k £24995
96P CD 2.5 AUTO Aqua Blue, Silver or Grey Met, 8k £20995
96N GLT 2.5 AUTO Red Pearl, 12k £18495
96N SE 2.5 MAN Torq, Tracs, CD, Twin Airbags, 11k £17995

960 ESTATES
96P 960 CD 3.0 AUTO 24V Blue/Beige Leather, Est Pack, 7k £24995
96P 960 CD 3.0 AUTO 24V Dark Olive/Beige Leather, Est Pack, 8k £24995
96P 960 CD 3.0 AUTO 24V Silver/Grey Leather, Est Pack, 7k £24995
96M 960 CD 3.0 AUTO Blue Met, Beige Leather, 35k £19995
96N 940 SE 2.3 MAN Forest Green, Alloys, Roof Rails, 13k £15995

850 SALOONS
96P CD T5 AUTO Aqua Beige Leather, 10k £21495

S40 & V40
96P S40 1.8 Mid Blue, Twin Airbags, 8k £14995
96P V40 1.8 CD Black Met, 7k £17995
96N V40 SE 2.0 Pacific Met, 8k £16995

PLEASE RING FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Tamplins of Croydon
NATIONWIDE DELIVERY
0181 689 2020
OPEN 7 DAYS
SUNDAY 11.00-5.00

VOLVO
400 SERIES
Volvo 480 ES, Man, Black £8,495
Volvo 440 2.0 SE, Man, White, 41,000 Mls £8,995
Volvo 440 2.0i GLT, Blue £9,495
Volvo 460 1.8 LE Saloon, Silver £9,995
Volvo 440 1.8 S, Man Hatch, Forest Green £10,995
Volvo 440 1.6 S Pack, 5 Dr, Red, 9,900 Mls £10,995
Volvo 460 2.0 CD, Man, Forest Green Met, B/Leather Int, A/C, Alloys, 35,000 Mls £10,995
Volvo 460 1.9 TD ES Saloon, Grey Met £11,995
800 SERIES
Volvo 850 2.5 GLT 10V Est, Man, Black £19,995
Volvo 850 2.0 SE 10V Est, Man, Dark Olive Pearl, Beige Madison Trim, 23,000 Mls £16,995
Volvo 850 2.5 CD 20V Est, Auto, Dark Blue Met, Blue Leather Int £22,995
Volvo 850 T5 R Est, Auto, Dark Olive Pearl, Dk Grey Leather Interior £26,995
Volvo 850 T5 CD Est (Est Pack), Auto, Silver Sand Met, Dark Grey Leather Trim £26,995
Volvo 850 R Est, Auto, Dark Grey Pearl, Dark Grey Alcantara Interior £28,995
Volvo 850 GLT 2.0 20V Saloon, Auto, Silver Met £12,995
Volvo 850 GLT 2.0 20V Saloon, Man, Red Pearl £13,995
Volvo 850 GLT 2.5 10V Saloon, Auto, Garnet Red Met £18,995
Volvo 850 3.0 SE Saloon, Auto, Blue Met £13,995
900 SERIES
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth Turbo Est, Man, D/Olive Pearl, (Oyster Pack), F/Leather, A/C £15,995
Volvo 940 2.3 HPT Classic Est, Man, Turquoise Pearl Met £15,995
Volvo 940 LPT SE Est, Auto, Red £18,495
Volvo 960 3.0 CD Saloon, Auto, White, Beige Leather Interior £22,595
Volvo 960 3.0 CD Saloon, Auto, Red Pearl Met, Light Beige Leather £22,995
S40
Volvo S40 2.0 CD, Man, Silver Flower Met, Air Con, Handling Pack, Rear Spoiler £17,995
Volvo S40 1.8 SE, Man, Pacific Blue Met, Handling Pack, Alloys, Grey Cloth £14,995
V40
Volvo V40 1.8 CD Est, Man, Burgundy Red Met, Dark Grey Leather Int, Air Con £16,495
LEX READING
VOLVO 411-413 London Road, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1BJ. Tel: 01189 267321

VOLVO

850 Estates, 96P/N: R/TDI/CD/SE/GLT, 9 beauties- £17k-£30k! Px etc, PWC, 01494 672727 now

960CD Ests, 96P, 3.0 auto 6k 7str £26k; 95N, £24k; 940, £16.4k px/etc, PWCars, 01494 672727

EUROCONTINENTAL CARS
VOLVO T-5
S70 & V70 SE / CD
TREMENDOUS SAVINGS ON NEW RHD
U.K. 97 SPECIFICATION
PART EXCHANGE WELCOME & FINANCE ARRANGED
EURO CONTINENTAL CARS
CALL 01703 470208 OR FAX 01703 471707

VOLVO AUTHORISED

VOLVO
Approved Used Cars
97P 850 T5 GLT AUTO EST £25995
96P 960 CD 3.0 SALOON £22995
97P 850 SE 2.5 EST £19495
96N 850 SE 2.5 AUTO EST £17995
96N S40 2.0 SE Handle Pack £15995
94L 850 SE 2.5 AUTO EST £15995
94L 850 GLT 2.0 EST £13495
Templars
FREEPHONE: 0500 918183

GOLF GTi
95M, 5 door
Black.22,000 miles
Taxed till Feb
Alarm, Sony stereo.
Electric windows
1 owner.
Excellent condition.
£11,500.
Tel: 01438 816179

GOLF
2.8L VR6, 3 door, L reg, mistic blue, cd player, central locking, twin airbags, immobiliser, 27,000 miles, FSH.
£13,500.
Tel: 0171 385 5401(h)
0171 895 2107(w)

EUROCONTINENTAL CARS
GOLFS
UNBEATABLE PRICES ON ALL MODELS
NEW UK 97 SPECIFICATION
CL - GL - GTI - VR6 - TDI
HATCHBACKS & ESTATES
ALSO CONVERTIBLES
PART EXCHANGE & FINANCE ARRANGED
01703 470208
or FAX 01703 471707
EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

Volkswagen at Dovercourt.

BATTERSEA
96P GOLF 1.8SE, 5dr, Dragon Green, 6,000 Miles, Sunroof, Alloys, 1 Owner
95N GOLF GTi, 5dr, Dragon Green, 16,000 Miles, Sunroof, 1 Owner
96P POLO 1.9 DIESEL, Windsor Blue, 12,000 miles, PAS, 1 Owner
96P GOLF VR6, 5dr, Flash Red, 9,000 miles, Air Con, 1 Owner
94L PASSAT 1.8CL ESTATE, Red Chilli, 30,000 miles, Airbag, Sunroof, Roof Rails
96N GOLF AVANTGARDE GTi, Satin Silver, BBS Alloys, C/Locking, 22,000 miles, 1 Owner
95N GOLF 1.8 SE, 5dr, Flash Red, 8,000 miles, Alloys, C/Locking, 1 Owner
96P SHARAN 2.8 CARAT, Dragon Green, 5000 miles, Air Con, Alloys, Ex-demo, 1 Owner
95N POLO 1.4L, Black, 11,000 miles, Alloys, 1 Owner
96N SHARAN GL, Auto, Dragon Green, Sunroof, 11,000 Miles
96P GOLF GTi, 5dr, Dragon Green, ESR, 8,000 Miles, 1 Owner
94L CORRADO VR6, Midnight Blue, 15,000 Miles, 1 Owner, FSH

ST. JOHNS WOOD
96P GOLF CL AUTO, Cash Red, 10,000 Miles, Airbag, PAS, CDL, Electric Windows & Sunroof, Alloys
96P GOLF VR6, 5Dr, Mystic Blue, 11,000 Miles, Air Con, ABS, BBS Alloys, Airbags, CDL, E/Sunroof & Windows
94L GOLF GTi, 5Dr, Classic Green, 37,000 Miles, Leather Interior, Alloys, E/Sunroof & Windows, PAS, CDL
96P GOLF 1.4, 5Dr, PAS, CDL, Airbag + 1.6CL 5 Dr, E/Windows, PAS, Airbag, CDL, Choice of Met Paint
95M VENTO 1.8 GL, Flash Red, 12,000 Miles, Electric Sunroof/Windows, PAS, CDL

CAR OF THE WEEK - MANAGERS CHOICE
96P GOLF GTi 16V, 5Dr, Silver, 8,000 Miles, ABS, Alloys, Airbags, CDL, PAS, E/Sunroof & Windows

95N SHARAN CARAT VR6, Auto, 6,000 Miles, Dragon Green, C/C, Alloys, Airbag, ABS, Remote Lock
96N POLO 1.4L, 3Dr, Metallic Paint, Airbags, Choice of 5
96P Sharan 2.0 GL, Airbag, PAS, CDL, Electric Windows, Electric Sunroof
96N PASSAT ESTATE 1.8 CL, Air Conditioning, PAS, CDL, Electric Windows, Choice of 3
93K POLO 1.3 COUPE GENESIS, Steel Blue, 46,000 Miles, 5 Speed, Sunroof

Dovercourt

VOLVO

850 CD
T5, 96P, Auto, Est., Burgandy met, as new, 4k.
£26,000.
Tel. 01903 533323

T5R ESTATE
The original yellow 150+ Porsche buster. M reg. 50k.
£21,500
01638 717425.

VOLVO WANTED

All urgent need for all model high spec Volvo's and other prestige marques. Anywhere U.K. Tel: 0181 892 5122

VOLVO

850 ESTATE
96N. 2.5 10v SE Auto. Red met, CD player, a/c. 16k.
£18,500 ono
0467 350248.

ACCESSORIES

TOP PRICES PAID!

David Duggan Watches are specialist buyers of luxury wristwatches. We are now paying top prices for your

ROLEX • CARTIER
PATEK PHILIPPE
VACHERON • AUDEMARS
BREGUET • PIAGET

Irrespective of age or condition.
DON'T ACCEPT ANY OTHER OFFER UNTIL YOU HAVE SPOKEN TO US.
Telephone now for an immediate offer or send your watch by registered mail - guaranteed payment by return - or visit our Bond Street Shop.

OPEN Monday-Friday 10.30am-5.15pm

0171 491 1362

David Duggan

BOND STREET ANTIQUES CENTRE, 124 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1Y 9AE

Mary Spillane, the American who has been colour-coding Britain's politicians, talks to **Andrew Pierce**

'Sister Veronica was a demon nun behind the wheel'

PETER TREVNOR

Mary Spillane: "I don't dream about cars, but I wouldn't turn down a '67 Thunderbird Convertible. White with matching leather interiors"

Judging by the appearance of most of the politicians paraded in front of the television cameras, you might think few had been given the benefit of the advice of Mary Spillane, one of Britain's leading image consultants. But in fact she has worked for all the major political parties except Plaid Cymru.

Ms Spillane was one of the first to set up a company giving advice to career women on their appearance. Born outside Boston, she worked for both Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan as a crisis manager before coming to Britain in 1981.

On the three party leaders she believes that Tony Blair's dress sense is terrific: "He is a modern man. His image is good."

John Major's image is more polished than five years ago. "But it would be wonderful to see him dress more casually."

She picks Paddy Ashdown as the best of the three. "He could wear a bin liner and still look good. He has been blessed because the election has been called in spring. It has made their colour, yellow, look good."

But Ashdown's fellow Lib Dem MPs were told to clean up their act by brushing their hair, buying new ties, and washing their shirts. Ms Spillane met 25 MPs for the dressing down. Simon Hughes, who is defending Bermondsey and Southwark, was advised to wash his shirts more often and women candidates were told to wear jackets with square shoulders. Bright ties were in vogue for the men. Whether her advice will make much impact on polling day remains to be seen.

STEERING COLUMN

How did you first learn to drive?

With Sister Veronica. Yes, a nun, at the Academy of the Holy Angels at the age of 16. She was a demon behind the wheel and gave us detention if we swore when we got things wrong.

What was your first car?

The same make I am driving today and have done so for almost 30 years — a VW. Then it was a bug. I just get a new one every two or three years.

What car do you drive now, and why?

A Golf GTi.

Do you like driving?

Only in America, where I hire Lincolns to cruise in. Britain is not a cruising country. The roads are too cramped.

What is your most hated car?

Ones with shot exhaust systems that choke the rest of us. In America you can make a citizen's arrest on such drivers, who are considered more anti-social than smokers.

What is your dream car?

I don't dream about cars. But I would not turn down a '67 Thunderbird Convertible. White with matching leather interiors, of course.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Putting on lipstick while I am driving and changing gears.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Like everyone, I have slept in them, had rained-out picnics in them, and been a naughty girl (occasionally). But, like most women, my car has doubled up as the makeover chamber when needing to transform from Cinderella into a princess.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Those who don't show manners, like saying thank you with a wave or a smile when you let them in.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

None, despite being a Taurean who, according to recent American research, have the worst record for accidents. Obviously they must have counted only boy Bulls; the girls are very well-behaved when they're behind the wheel.

What do you listen to in the car?

Radio 4 or Jazz FM. Driving to Sussex every Friday is a ritual of *The Archers*, *Pick of the Week* then *Any Questions*.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Insist that all traffic wardens in Westminser were former social workers (not prison officers) so that tickets would be more negotiable.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

I am oblivious to them all. Some have nice music but others irritate.

The new car's great in theory, but will the factory be able to build it?

Ian Morton looks at how Ford is screening in the human condition

Factory workers are being replaced by computer images in a Ford plan to save the company £125 million a year worldwide.

Ford is to use computer-generated "virtual factory" and "virtual worker" techniques to replace vehicle prototypes and human skills in the design stage. The concept will mean a 20 per cent reduction in the number of design changes that have to be introduced during the late development stages to make vehicles easier to build.

Ford claims to be the first car manufacturer to use computer simulations to design its vehicle final assembly processes on a global basis. If the concept goes into general use, it will slice an estimated £1.5 billion off carmakers' costs.

The virtual factory includes computer-simulated employees who test proposed assembly line processes against the human shape and its field of movement. Men and women of different sizes can be simulated to make sure there are no ergonomic problems.

In the past such problems have emerged only after the carmaker had built prototypes and guinea-pig workers had tried to assemble them, often finding the processes difficult or humanly impossible, necessitating expensive design revision.

The technique has already been used by Ford to design the door module, fuel tank placement and door latch on a future car, the drive-line assembly on a second car, and the instrument panel on a light truck. It will be utilised on the development of all critical manufacturing processes for 2000 and beyond.

Use of "virtual factory" has resulted in assembly processes designed faster and at lower cost, and in vehicles designed to be easier to assemble and to service and with better build quality, says Bruce Hettle, manager of the large and luxury car division at Ford's global final-assembly engineering studios.

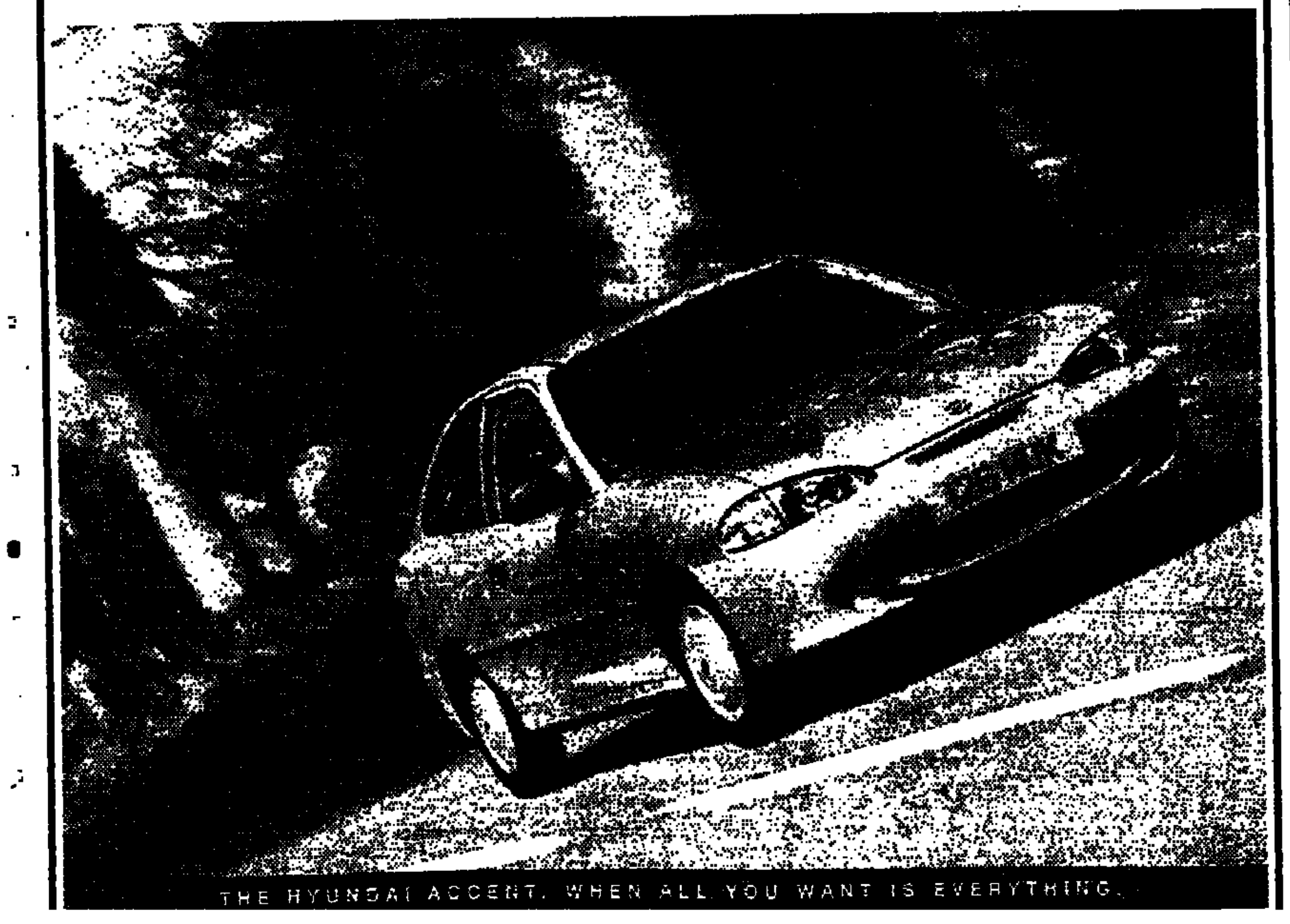
"These computer simulations are a big help in Ford's drive to bring new cars and trucks to market faster," he says. "Assembly techniques can now be developed at the same time as components are designed. Both are designed simultaneously on computer, reducing reliance on expensive prototypes early in the product development process."

Because manufacturing engineers work alongside product design engineers and both use the same computer images of vehicle components and facilities, design changes can be made immediately and early to improve ease of assembly. This high-tech teamwork is made possible through the worldwide implementation of Ford's new integrated computer-aided design, engineering, manufacturing and product information management system, known as C3P, says Hettle.

"In the past, product design engineers would design a component, a prototype part would be made and then manufacturing engineers and hourly product specialists would work to make the assembly process feasible," says Mark Phillips, manufacturing systems supervisor in Ford's paint and final assembly engineering division.

"Making engineering changes for ease of assembly was an expensive project. Now they can be made sooner, quicker and with the input of the manufacturing staff who have to build the vehicle, without relying entirely on expensive prototypes."

Ford vision: if it's virtually correct, it will work in reality


HYUNDAI

By all means,
look around for another
£7,600 car that
offers as much as this.

We'll be here
when you get back.

THE HYUNDAI ACCENT. WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING.

Daewoo aims for the top ten

Tony Lewis in Seoul reports on the new Korean trio

Daewoo in production: with high customer satisfaction, the target is to overtake Hyundai

PROOF, if proof was needed, of the burgeoning ambition of Daewoo, the Korean car maker, has been provided by the company's plans to launch three new models simultaneously in Europe by the end of this year. Daewoo has already thrust the trio of new cars on to its domestic market as it served notice of the seriousness of its intentions to win a place in the world's top ten carmakers' league by the end of the decade.

Named Lanos, Nubira and Leganza, they form the second wave of Daewoo exports, corporate virility symbols after 2½ years selling the Nexia and Espero in the UK, fundamentally tarted up Astra and US Cavaliers, respectively.

Lanos (in hatchback and saloon forms) will replace the Nexia, although slightly smaller and the Nubira saloon, an incremental estate, will eclipse the Espero, again with marginally less bulky external dimensions.

But the Leganza, in saloon-only format, moves Daewoo up into previously uncharted territory, pitched against Ford's Mondeo, Vauxhall's Vectra and the Peugeot 406. This new flagship offering should be heavily specified, complete with leather and wood, air-conditioning and CD sound system. By previous Daewoo standards it is understated, nothing garish or overembellished. The interior majors on "soft feel" surfaces, avoiding previous tacky efforts.

Daewoo's UK research and trio underwent testing at the Motor Industry Research Association's Midlands test track.

As a result, they display European ride and handling virtues, firm enough on corners but supple over uneven surfaces. It is under the bonnet where the brave new Daewoos require most attention, all the engines, particularly the 2-litre being harsh and lacking flexibility, but new power units are promised by 1999, from 1.3-litres upwards.

They are badly needed in an area where Ford, Vauxhall, Peugeot and the Japanese marques take engine refinement as read. Equally, the automatic transmission on the 2-litre Nubira hunts and shunts, generating annoying transaxle "snatch", but a more refined ZF system on the Leganza avoids that.

Determined to provide state-of-the-art European styl- Audi A3, Rover 200 and BMW in a cocktail of styles.

In a head-to-head, the Nubira is probably not up to the more advanced standards of arch rival Hyundai's Accent, but Leganza is markedly ahead of the opposition's Sonata. It is the Leganza, larger and most upmarket of the three models, which is considered as an entree into the smaller company fleets on a specification for price basis.

THE SUCCESS of the company's European marketing strategy so far is undeniable. With its friendly showrooms featuring computer displays and crèches, its comprehensive servicing arrangements, long warranties and deliberate fostering of its own second-hand market it has made a huge impact within less than three years.

In the recent J.D. Power survey of customer satisfac- all satisfaction, although it was the first time the marque was eligible for inclusion.

Dave Sargent, Power's director of European operations, said Daewoo very nearly received an award in its first year in the study. The cars were rated almost as highly as industry leaders and customers are extremely satisfied with how they are looked after.

The study is based on experiences of more than 16,500 readers who responded to a questionnaire in *Top Gear* magazine. It takes into account performance, mileage covered, reliability, treatment by dealers and compares them against the original expectation of buyers to come up with an index based on satisfaction.

Pricing will be the key to success of the new models in Britain. With 20,000 sales here last year, Daewoo is intent on overtaking Hyundai by add-